

**EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
OF PRIMARY PUPILS IN THE SELECTED SCHOOLS
OF KAGUNDU LOCATION, MURANG'A SOUTH
DISTRICT KENYA**


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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF OPEN AND
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UNIVERSITY**

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DECLARATION

I, ZIPPORAH WAIRIMU JOHN declare that this project is my original work and has never been presented to any other university for award of any academic certificate or anything similar to such. I solemnly bear and stand to correct any inconsistency.

Signature 

DATE : 23/8/09

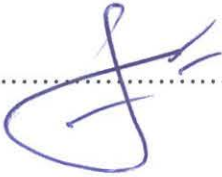
ZIPPORAH WAIRIMU JOHN

APPROVAL

This is to acknowledge that this Report has been under my supervision as a university supervisor and is now ready for submission.

Signatures

Date

.....


..... 23/08/2009

MR. WOMUZUMBU MOSES

DEDICATION

This work is affectionately dedicated to my beloved husband and my children for their support patience and understanding during this period of study not forgetting all those who constantly wished me success.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I also owe a lot of appreciation to all those who assisted me in carrying out this research. I am grateful to my supervisor Mr. Womuzumbu who went through my work and inspired me to dig deeper into the core of the matter. His kind criticism, patience and understanding, assisted me a great deal.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of learners.

The specific objectives of the study were to investigate the effects of drug abuse on student's discipline, to explore the common drugs abused by learners; and to investigate if learners who use drugs attend school regularly. The methods used for data collection was questionnaires and interview guides to learners, and teachers of the schools involved in the study.

In chapter four, the findings were presented and interpreted in relation to the study objectives and research questions. While linking to the existing literature, results included demographic characteristics, frequency and percentages. Based on the findings it was observed that drugs effect the discipline and education of learners negatively. In chapter five, development of solutions to the problem, summary of the findings and conclusions were attempted.

The findings suggested recommendations that community and parents are important in a child's life. They should therefore be sensitized and encouraged to participate in all programs that aim to solve the problem of drugs. The government should also include them in all the plans they make concerning the fight against drug abuse

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Drugs are chemical compounds that modify the way the body and mind work. Most people think that these biological activities should help or heal sick people or animals. (Goldstein; 1994)

There is, however, no known drug that is not harmful or even poisonous at high doses, and much of the scientific work on drugs has attempted to widen the gap between effective and toxic doses. (White; 1991)

The history of drugs is shrouded in the beginnings of the human race. Alcohol was made, drunk, and used to excess as far back as memory and records go. Tobacco (Nicotiana), hemp (Cannabis sativa), opium poppy (Papaver somniferum), and other plants containing drugs have been chewed and smoked almost as long as alcohol, and coffee has been served in the Middle East throughout that area's history. (Mancall; 1995)

Tobacco was carried from Virginia to England by Sir Walter Raleigh, whose pipe smoking prompted Elizabeth I to remark, "I don't like this herb." Of course, the queen did not know anything about tar and nicotine, but she became one of the first people to initiate the acrimonious debate about tobacco constituents that we face today. Likewise, the effects of cannabis have given it a bad name. (Stanley; 2000)

Coffee was introduced by the Ottomans to the Western world when the Turks made a foray into central Europe in the 16th century. Its active alkaloid, caffeine, is often on the forbidden list for patients suffering from rapid heart beat or angina. (Robert; 2002)

Before colonization drugs and alcohol were part of the cultural practices of the Kenyan community. Most African cultures had strict values and structures around alcohol and drug use. Tobacco and alcohol were mostly for elders while restrictions were placed on youth. Drug abuse simply did not exist because strong social cohesion gave people the security they needed to be strong within them. (Catherine mgendi; 1997)

Today drugs are a plague on Kenyan society rivaling AIDS. As in any Community around the world, drug abuse and poverty seem to go hand in hand. (Catherine Mgendi; 1997)

Although Kenya has established an anti-narcotics police unit and hosts one of the three offices in Africa of the UN International Drug Control Program, drug syndicates not only use sophisticated methods but also have effectively pocketed some law enforcement agents, despite the government's determination to combat the problem. In a well-documented 1997 court proceeding, one District Officer and four policemen were sentenced to long jail terms for complicity in bringing drugs into the country.(UN;2000)

The suppliers, recognizing the needs of those who abuse their wares and in order to lure more, decided to move closer. Thus, one can now have access to chang'aa right in the middle of the city. The suppliers of smokable drugs and inhalants have also moved closer to their customers, and in the process, have just become another link in the chain that has made drugs easily accessible to young Kenyans. (Catherine Mgendi; 1997)

Even though evidence shows that a number of non-learners engage in substance abuse, the majority of learners who abuse drugs are in secondary schools and universities. Most come mainly from middle class families and entertain the falsehood that substance use enables a student to study for long hours. (Myra and David; 2000)

But it is increasingly becoming common knowledge that substance abuse among the youth is turning out to be a major problem because they begin to consume substances in early adolescence; abuse a wide range of legal and illegal substances and mainly use alcohol, miraa and tobacco among legal substances and bhang, cocaine and heroin among the illegal ones.(Ronald;1992)

The problem of abuse is associated with the introduction of foreign ways of life that have been undermining cultures of the indigenous society which restricted the use of some substances such as alcohol to senior age groups and to special occasions. But times have changed and alcohol

consumption is not restricted to senior age groups or special occasions. It is readily available to adults and to youth between 10 and 24 years, though the law prohibits its sale to and use by those under the legal age of consent.(John; 1999)

The sad part is that girls are also actively involved in drugs A National Survey of Drug Use and Health in 2004 showed that girls began smoking marijuana earlier than boys. Besides increased substance abuse, studies also show that more teen girls are abusing tobacco and alcohol. (According to the Department of Health and Human Services, “girls ages 12 to 17 now match boys in illegal drug and alcohol use and have actually surpassed boys in smoking cigarettes and misusing prescription drugs.” this has had a negative impact regarding discipline which has destroyed their future and hence need for the study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The use of illegal drugs is increasing, especially among young teens. The average age of first marijuana use is 14, and alcohol use can start before age 12 years. Findings of a study undertaken by the Child Welfare Association, released, revealed that one in every 15 Kenyan learners is on drugs. This group primarily abuses bhang and hashish. Studies carried by the department of justice in the United States indicate that 60 per cent of drug abusers are below 30 years of age. Drug use is associated with a variety of negative consequences, including increased risk of serious drug use later in life, school failure, and poor judgment which may put teens at risk for accidents, violence, unplanned and unsafe sex, and suicide.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to determine drug abuse and learners academic achievement in the selected primary schools of Kagundu Location Muranga South District Kenya.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

General: The study was to determine drug abuse and learners academic achievement.

Specific objectives

Specifically this study sought;

1. To investigate how drug abuse affects learners
2. To identify the most common drugs abused
3. To determine the effects of drugs in regards to; schooling, family, and health

1.5. Research Questions

1. How does drug abuse affect learners?
2. What are the common drugs abused?
3. What are the effects of drugs on schooling, family and health?

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in the selected primary schools of Kagundu Location Muranga South District Kenya. The study took four months that is from April 2009 to August 2009 and was limited to the set objectives outlined in chapter one in regards to the topic of the study.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Drug trafficking is a business of the rich and powerful that if urgent measures are not taken to deal with the menace, Kenya, which has become a major transit point, might be transformed into a state in which the drug trade is a way of life. Therefore the study will help policy makers make policies that will help prevent the problem from escalating.

Equally disturbing is the rise in drug abuse in secondary schools which can have negative effects on the future of the children. The study will therefore help head teachers, teachers and parents in identifying the problem and finding ways to help those who are abusing drugs and prevent those who have not yet started drug abuse to do so.

The learners will also benefit from the study since the effects of drugs shall be discussed and so will help them avoid associating with drugs and also help their friends who are involved in drugs.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Discipline: According to the study it means the way learners are expected to behave in society and in school.

Drugs: These are chemical compounds that modify the way the body and mind work.

Drug abuse: According to the study it means the misusing of drugs like alcohol in secondary schools.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter the literature related to the study. It focuses on discipline and drug abuse, types of dugs and the effects of drugs.

2.1 Discipline and Drug Abuse

Discipline is a controversial term. School discipline has a diversity of connotation as different people perceive it to mean different things.

Kasozi (1999) says discipline refers to the situation of remaining inside the legal bonds of law and regulations. Discipline in schools he asserts refers to obeying the school rules and regulations as laid down by the school administration.

Gumusiriza (1990) observes that the importance of maintaining discipline is focused on rehabilitation of the youth. He based his postulation on the argument that if we accept that the youths today are parents and teachers of tomorrow, then the latter will not mold their children into useful citizens, if today they are not themselves disciplined.

In addition to these school discipline issues, classrooms are frequently plagued by other, more minor kinds of misbehavior which disrupt the flow of classroom activities and interfere with learning. Approximately one-half of all classroom time is taken up with activities other than instruction, and discipline problems are responsible for a significant portion of this lost instructional time (Cotton; 1990).

Nature has tried very hard to protect the brain, and messing around with drugs can change the way the brain works naturally. When one takes drugs, parts of the brain start to disagree on what to do, and that creates a big problem. The brain can solve problems, be creative, be logical, make plans, make wise decisions, and do almost anything else one can think of. All parts of the brainwork together, to keep us healthy, intelligent and happy (drug enforcement administration, 2006).

Drug use is associated with more unplanned pregnancies, more sexually transmitted disease and more HIV infection than is any single factor. The more teenagers drink, the more they are likely

to be involved in violent crime, such as murder, rape or robbery either as victims or as perpetrators. (John; 1999)

Those who abuse a drug suffer physical, mental, or social harm (Weil & Rosen, 1983; White, 1991). Note that, from this point of view, a person can abuse any drug, whether illegal or legal. After all, even a few (legal) drinks of alcohol can cause great harm to a person who then gets behind the wheel of a car (Goode; 1993).

2.2 Types of Drugs

2.2.1 Stimulants

Caffeine

Probably the most popular of all drugs in the World is caffeine, which is available in many products; including coffee, tea, soft drinks, and chocolate, as well as “stay alert” pills. At times, at least, almost everybody from long distance truck drivers, learners facing an exam and anyone trying to wake up before getting to work depends on caffeine to stay alert. (White; 1991)

Nicotine

Although nicotine is legal in the United States and almost everywhere else in the world, this stimulant is both toxic and highly addictive. The most common way to ingest nicotine is to smoke cigarettes, a practice that became popular among men in the United States during World War 1, when the army issued cigarettes to soldiers, within a generation, the health hazards of cigarette smoking were becoming clear, but there were few efforts by government or other organizations to discourage it until the 1960. (Brownee and Roberts; 1994)

Worldwide, the share of adults who smoke is higher than in the United States about 30 percent and the figure is climbing. In many other countries, a large majority of men smoke, often with little awareness of the harm cigarettes cause to the heart, the lungs, and other bodily organs.

In the United States, cigarette smoking remains, by far, the single greatest preventable cause of death. Each year, about 430,000 people die prematurely due to tobacco, which is a death toll that far exceeds that caused by alcohol and illegal drugs combined. Even so, thousands, of young people start smoking every day, and unless they quit, smoking will both harm them and place a

massive burden on our health care system. Although some researchers warn that smoking during adolescence can damage lungs permanently, most ex-smokers a decade after quitting have health as good as people who never lit up in the first place (Recer; 1999).

Cocaine and Crack

Cocaine, in a powder form, can be snorted up the nose; if it is dissolved, people can inject it into the body. Cocaine is highly addictive and, officials report, it leads to about 3,500 deaths each year in the United States (U.S Department of Health & Human Services; 1995). Cocaine's popularity peaked in the 1980s, when it was the drug of choice among many young urban professionals ("yuppies"). Even though its popularity waned in the 1990s, the typical cocaine user is still well-to-do, a fact that breaks the stereo type of illegal drug users as "down and out" (U.S Department of Justice, 1997; U.S. Department of Commerce;1998).

Crack is a hardened form of cocaine that people usually smoke in a pipe. Although most people think crack is stronger than cocaine and more likely to provoke violence, current research indicates that the effects of the two drugs are very similar (Inciardi, 1992; Wren, 1996; Gomez; 1997).

Amphetamines

Amphetamines are drugs that were first developed for the medical treatment of personality disorders and obesity. These drugs increase alertness, causing an excited sense of wellbeing while reducing the desire to sleep and eat. Because amphetamines are easy to make, many underground chemists operate highly profitable business selling drugs known on the street as "crank", "speed", "crystal", "go", "meth", or "ice".

After cocaine, amphetamines are the most popular illegal stimulants. Official statistics suggest that about 4.5 million people have tried amphetamines. Many become dependent on them, including patients who begin taking amphetamines under a doctor's supervision. Such users typically experience withdrawal symptoms, such as apathy, depression, irritability, and disorientation (U.S Department of Health & Human Services; 2000). As amphetamine use

increases, these drugs carry greater risk of causing agitation, fever, hallucinations, and convulsions.

Ritalin

Technically known as methylphenidate, is a drug doctors prescribe to treat children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or attention deficit disorder (ADD). These are disorders in which children become hyperactive or have trouble concentrating and paying attention to a teacher or another adult. In recent years, the use of Ritalin has increased sharply in the United States, with some researchers suggesting that upwards of 10 percent of boys and 5 percent of girls take the drug (Livingston ;1997).

Currently, controversy surrounds the use of Ritalin. On one side of the debate, many parents claim that Ritalin helps children stay calm in school and focus on their work. On the other side of the debate, critics fear that we are relying on drugs to control the behavior of children. Speaking for critics, pediatrician Lawrence Diller (1998) claims that U.S children are being unnecessarily medicated by parents who are overworked or overly concerned with their children's achievements.

2.2.2 Depressants

Depressants are drugs that show the operation of the central nervous system. In this sense, depressants have the opposite effect of stimulants.

Analgesics

One class of depressants is analgesics, drugs that dull pain. The most widely used analgesics include familiar over-the-counter pain relievers like aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin), and acetaminophen (Tylenol). Although these drugs can be abused, they present little problem when used according to directions (Goode; 1993).

More problematic are naturally occurring narcotics, or opiates, such as opium and drugs derived from opium, including morphine, codeine, and heroin. All are dangerous drugs that are highly addictive. (U.S Department of justice; 1999)

Although most people in the United States have heard of heroin, this drug is not widely used. Because heroin is highly addictive, the law bans its use for any purpose. People who are heroin

experience strong cravings and physical withdrawal symptoms if they stop taking the drug. Because users can never be sure how pure their heroin is, overdoses are common and can be fatal (U.S Department of Health & Human Services; 2000).

Sedatives and Hypnotics

A second type of depressants is sedative hypnotics, drugs that have a wider ranging effect on the central nervous system. These drugs help people relax and at higher doses, cause drowsiness and sleep. Examples of sedatives and hypnotics include barbiturates, such as Seconal and pentobarbital, as well as tranquilizers, including Xanax, Valium, and Halcion. (Gomez; 1997)

2.3 Effects of Drugs

2.3.1 Effects on schooling

Drugs have no rightful place anywhere in society; however, they have even less of a place in academic environments where teens are living in their most formative years. That the teen drug/alcohol user's academic performance is severely impaired, along with his or her level of responsibility – such as skipping class, failing to complete assignments, etc. – speaks to the notion that drug and alcohol use is rampant throughout American middle and high schools. This abuse has produced teenage student body's with many abusers whose relationships, reputations, futures, wallets, self-images and especially grades suffer as a direct result of the teen drug abuse, (Mary; 2000).

One might readily argue that teenage drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions on some college campuses and high school facilities. Alcohol – one of the most misused drugs today – is also one of the most popular and readily available of all types of drugs and controlled substances found on high school campuses. (Robert; 2000) Waking in a stupor after the previous night's party, missing classes, falling behind and ultimately losing whatever funding may have accompanied one's higher education is but a single representation of how drugs and/or alcohol can detrimentally impact one's academic experience. (Goldstein; 1994) Many teens think college is just one big party now that they are on their own at school. However, the soiree does not last long once parents find out the extent to which their teen children have detrimentally impacted their scholastic rating by skipping class, failing to complete assignments and generally

neglecting their scholastic responsibilities.(Goode; 1993)

2.3.2 Effect on the family

Drugs play part in child neglect. Drugs are usually not the single cause of such problems but they often make the problems worse. Drugs reduce inhibitions and affect judgment so that a person already inclined to abusive behavior is more likely to act in this way when under influence (Gelles; 1997). In extreme cases parents abandon or otherwise harm their own children. In some cases parents force their children into prostitution or other criminal activity in order to earn money for drugs.

Children growing up in such families lose their ability to trust others and end up in trouble with the law, dropping out of school, having family problems and abusing drugs themselves later on. (Jacqueline Wiseman; 1991)

2.3.3 Effects on health

Each year people die from the use of legal and illegal drugs. Some drugs such as heroin harm people directly, causing damage to the brain or to other vital organs, (Gomez; 1997).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study used a descriptive cross sectional survey. The research drew from both the qualitative and quantitative analysis approaches in order to get a bigger picture both in number and data.

3.2. Research Environment

This study was conducted in the selected primary schools of Kagundu Location Muranga South District Kenya

3.3. Respondents

This study obtained information from teachers, learners and parents/guardians.

3.4 Sample population

The study employed random sampling for the learners as they were many. Purposive sampling was used on the teachers and parents. This is so because the researcher chose the teachers and parents to interview. 60 questionnaires were distributed to learners. In 10 selected schools the researcher interviewed 14 teachers and they were considered representative of the population.

3.5 Instruments of data collection

Questionnaires were used to extract information from teachers and learners. Focus group discussion was used to get information from parents. Open ended questionnaires were suitable for investigating deeper the subject matter.

3.6. Data collection procedure

A letter of introduction from the institute of continuing education was sent to facilitate in the data collection exercise. The letter was handed to the head teacher before Questionnaires are distributed to teachers and learners. The data collected was sorted and categorized after which it was analyzed. The conclusions and recommendations was made.

3.6. Statistical treatment of data

The frequencies and percentages were used to determine the number of sample respondents used in the research process and the number that participated positively in contribution to the research.

Formula;

$$\text{Percentage (\%)} = \frac{F}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times 100$$

Where F = number of respondents

Observed

Qualitative analysis; Data from questionnaires were standardized hence requiring categorization. Such data was presented in a descriptive form above which was used to discuss the results of quantitative data.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter is a presentation, interpretation and discussion of the field results. The results are presented in tables and in form of frequency counts and percentages. It focuses on discipline and drug abuse, types of drugs abused by learners and the effects drugs have on learners.

4.2 Profile of the respondents

Table 1: Below shows the profile of the respondents

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Gender		
Male	30	75
Female	20	25
Total	50	100
class		
Standard four	10	20
Standard five	20	40
Standard six	12	24
Standard seven	8	16
Total	50	100
Age		
10-12	20	40
13-15	25	50
15 and above	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: field data

Sixty (60) questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and 50 were filled and returned. This therefore represents 83.3 % of the total number of questionnaires that were distributed.

The study covered 50 randomly selected respondents of whom 20 were female and 30 male.

The academic level of the respondents was divided into classes that are standard four, standard five, standard six and standard seven. 10 (20%) of the respondents were in standard four, 20 (40%) were in standard five while 12 (24%) were in standard six and 8 (16%) were in standard seven.

The age category of the respondents was divided into three categories. Between 10-12 were 20, which was 40% of the total population. 13-15 years were 25 (50%) and 15 and above were 5 reflecting 10% of the respondents.

Interviews were carried out with the teachers and ten were interviewed both male and female. Out of the ten interviewed six were female and four were male. They were purposely selected from all classes and were representative of all the other teachers.

4.3 Drug abuse and discipline

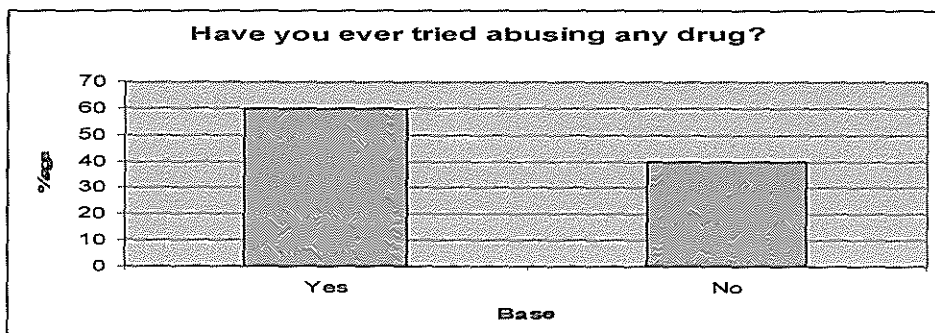
To get an understanding of the study the respondents that is the learners were asked whether they had tried taking any drug and this was the response.

Table 2. Have you ever tried abusing drug?

Base	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	30	60
No	20	40
Total	50	100

Source: field data

Chart 1



According to the table and chart 30(60%) agree that they have abused Drugs and 20 (40%) have never tried abusing drugs.

In interviews carried on with teachers they agreed that most of the learners have abused a drug at least once and the reason given for this was that most of them did it out of curiosity and others were forced while others start and become addicted. The teachers revealed that those who take drugs have discipline problems because in most cases they do not know what they are doing and this is common with those who take alcohol. The learners were asked how they behaved after taking drugs and this was the response.

Table 3. How did you behave after taking drugs?

Behavior	Frequency	Percentage
Bullied fellow learners	10	20
Missed and dodged classes	30	60
Involved in sexual activities	2	4
Involved in theft	8	16
Total	50	100

Source: field data

The table shows that majority that is 30 (60%) of those who tried drugs missed and dodged classes while 10(20%) bullied fellow learners, 8(16%) were involved in theft and 2(4%) were involved in sexual activities. However the teachers mentioned that those who were under the influence of drugs were would commit more than one crime and more so all the mentioned in the table. As far as sexual activities the teachers revealed that most men used drugs to seduce girls into sexual activities. However few girls mentioned being involved in sexual activities and this is so most girls are shy and ashamed to discuss such matters.

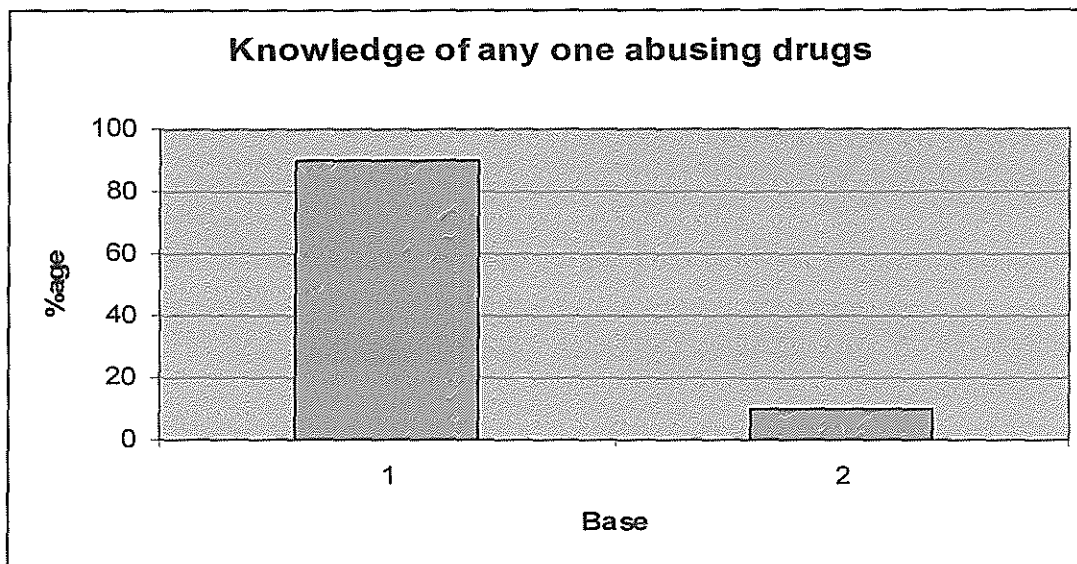
The respondents were asked were they knew of any one involved in abusing drugs and this was the response.

Table 4. Knowledge of any one abusing drugs.

Base	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	45	90
No	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: field data

Chart 2



According to the table and chart most respondents that is 45(90%) know of some one abusing drugs and 5(10%) do not know. The respondents who knew those who were involved in drugs were asked how they dealt with the situation and this was the response.

Table 5. How did you help those involved in drugs?

Solution	Frequency	Percentage
Advised her to stop	10	20
Reported her to the school authorities	10	20
Did not do anything	30	60
Total	50	100

Source: field data

According to the table majority that is 30(60%) who knew those involved in drugs did not do anything and 10(20%) advised their friends to stop while 10(20%) reported the cases to the school authorities.

The teachers revealed that most of the learners feared to report the cases of drug abuse for fear of being beaten by the learners who take drugs and so most of the drug cases go unnoticed. However some learners report those involved in drugs and sometimes those who take drugs themselves lose control and are noticed by the school authorities. The respondents were asked how those who were got taking drugs were treated at school and this was the response.

Table. 6. How does the school authority treat those who abuse drugs?

Solution	Frequency	Percentage
Counseled	15	30
Expelled	30	60
ignored	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: field data

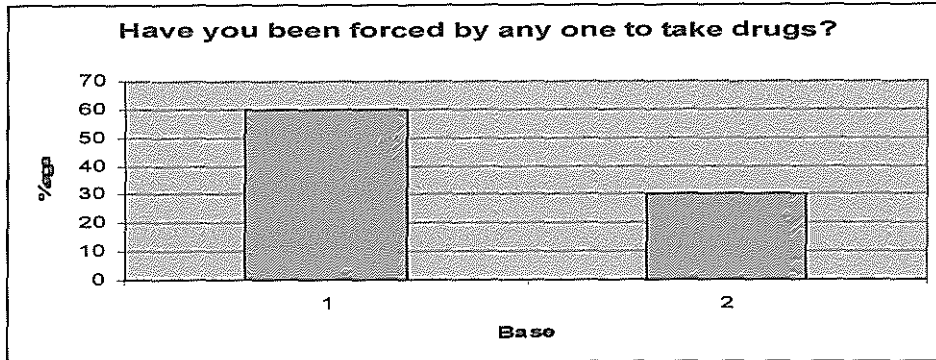
According to the table most of the respondents that is 30(60%) say that those who are caught abusing drugs are expelled and 15(30%) say that they are counseled while 5(10%) say that the learners are ignored. However teachers revealed that most learners who are caught are warned and counseled and if they fail to change then they are expelled. The teachers revealed that the reason the learners were expelled was to prevent them influencing or forcing the learners who do not take drugs into taking them. The learners were asked whether they were forced by anyone to take drugs and this was the response.

Table. 7. Have ever been forced by anyone to take drugs

Base	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	35	60
No	15	30
Total	50	100

Source: field data

Chart 3



30(60%) of the respondents agreed that they have been forced to take drugs by their fellow learners and 15(30%) say that they have not been forced to take drugs. they were then asked how they handled the situation and this was the response.

Table 8. How did you handle the situation when you were offered drugs?

Solution	Frequency	Percentage
Took the drugs	15	30
Refused to take the drugs	30	60
Reported her to the school authorities	5	10

Source: field data

The respondents who were forced to take drugs 15(30%) took the drugs while 30(60%) refused to take the drugs and 5(10) reported the case to the school authorities. in interviews with teachers they revealed that those who refused to take the drugs would be beaten and bullied while those who took the drugs would be forced to continue taking the drugs until they became addicts. According to the teachers this was one of the reasons why learners took drugs and the reason why it was persisting was that few learners had the courage to report the cases to the authorities. The teachers revealed that the learners who abused drugs had a record of poor performance in class since most of the time they were not in class and if they were in class they were not

attentive. The respondents were asked how learners who abused drugs performed in class and this was the response.

Table 9. How do learners who abuse drugs perform in class.

Performance	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	5	10
Good	10	20
Fair	20	40
bad	15	30
Total	50	100

Source: field data

The table clearly shows that the respondents who agree that those who abuse drugs perform excellently in class are few that is 5(10) and those who say that the performance is good are 10 (20%) while 20(40%) say it is fair and 15(30%) say that it is bad. the teachers revealed that those who perform well are a few who make the effort to read books otherwise according to the teachers most of the learners who perform poorly in class are drug abusers. The teachers revealed that most of drug abusers are depressed and therefore are not capable to study well and hence perform poorly in class.

The respondents were asked whether they knew the reason why learners abused drugs and this was the response.

Table 10. Do you know why learners abuse drugs?

base	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	40	80
No	5	10
Not sure	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: field data

Most of the respondents that is 40(80%) knew why learners abused drugs and 5(10%) did not know and were not sure.

the mostly mentioned reason why learners took drugs was that most of them were depressed and therefore took drugs thinking that it would calm them down, the other reason mentioned was

peer pressure and some took them thinking that they would perform well in school. According to teachers the main reason for drug abuse was depression and peer pressure.

4.4. Types of Drugs Abused By Learners

According to the respondents the drugs that are abused mostly are as follows;

Table. 11. Types of drugs abused by learners

	MJ	CC	NC	CR	BH	OP	AL
Number	40	32	13	10	20	22	48
Frequency	80	64	26	20	40	44	96

Source: field data

KEY

MJ-marijuana

CC-cocaine

NC-nicotine

CR-crack

BH-bhang

OP -opium

AL-alcohol

According to the table the commonly abused drug was alcohol that is 48(96%) of the respondents mentioned it as the commonly used drug in school followed by marijuana 40(80%) and cocaine 32(64%).opium, bhang, crack and nicotine were not commonly abused and this is so because they were not accessible. Alcohol according to the teachers was the most accessible and therefore was the most abused drug in secondary school followed by marijuana.

According to the respondents alcohol had a strong effect on the users because they would get drunk and therefore not know what they were doing and so would end up going against the rules of the schools. Marijuana according to the respondents also had an effect on the learners because they would feel as if they were “on top of the world” and therefore would not listen to anyone.

The respondents were asked how these learners accessed these drugs and it was revealed that most of the respondents packed these drugs as they came for a new term. For those who are day scholars it is easy for them to access the drugs since they are sold on the streets. The day scholars also bring them for those in the boarding section. According to the respondents the school authorities were not strict and therefore it was easy for the learners to sneak in drugs. However in interviews with the teachers it was revealed that the school authorities tries as much as possible to prevent entry of drugs in schools and this is done by checking girls suit cases at the beginning of the term and abrupt checking's in the middle of the term. However they mentioned that the biggest problem was those who brought the drugs from outside and more especially the day scholars.

The study revealed that learners paid money for the, drugs that is they used their pocket money. The study also found out that those who ran out of money would resort to stealing.

Learners took these drugs mostly over the weekends and after classes since by that time the authorities are not inspecting them.

4.5 Effects Of Drugs

The respondents were asked the effects of drugs on learners and this was the response.

Table. 12 Drugs lead to poor performance in class

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	30	60
Agree	10	20
Strongly disagree	3	6
Disagree	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: field data

The table above clearly shows that the respondents that is 30(60%) strongly agree that drug abuse lead to poor performance in class while 10(20%) agree, 3(6%) strongly disagree and 7(14%) disagree.

According to the teachers learners who abuse drugs do not concentrate in class and also miss classes hence leads to poor performance. The teachers revealed that in most cases learners think that if they take drugs even if they don't read they will perform well and therefore depend on drugs to pass examinations and hence end up performing poorly in class.

Table 13. Drugs lead to expulsion from school

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	40	80
Agree	10	20
Strongly disagree	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Total	50	100

Source: field data

According to the table 40(80%) of the respondents strongly agree that drug abuse leads to expulsion while 10(20%) agree. The reasons why most of the respondents agreed that drug abuse leads to expulsion was because drug abuse was a crime and the penalty for violating it was expulsion. The teachers revealed that the only way to fight drug abuse was to expel the culprits.

Table 14. Learners drop out of school because of drugs

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	20	40
Agree	15	30
Strongly disagree	5	10
Disagree	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: field data

The table shows that 20(40%) strongly agree that learners who abuse drugs drop out of school while 15 (30%) agree, 5(10%) strongly disagree and 10 (20%) disagree. According to the teachers learners who abuse drugs drop out because they have suspended and expelled from different schools and therefore cannot cope up with the situations and therefore end up dropping

out. They also mentioned that since learners who abuse drugs always miss classes and therefore perform poorly they see no reason for continuing in school and hence drop out.

Table 15. Because of drugs learners behave badly in school

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	38	76
Agree	7	14
Strongly disagree	3	6
Disagree	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: field data

According to the table 38(76%) strongly agree that learners behave badly because of drugs while 7(14%) agree 3 (6%) strongly disagree and 2(4%) disagree. The teachers in interviews held with them revealed that learners who abused drugs behaved badly because the drugs would control them and therefore they end up doing things they do not know or do not even remember they did when not under the influence of drugs.

Table 16. Drugs lead to death

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	20	40
Agree	20	40
Strongly disagree	7	14
Disagree	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: field data

20(40%) of the respondents strongly agree that drugs lead to death while 20(40%) disagree, 7(3%) strongly disagree and 3(6%) disagree. it was revealed that alcohol had health effects on the learners which at the extreme would end up killing them. Teachers revealed that in most cases learners who abuse drugs end up committing suicide. They further revealed that most of

thee learners are depressed and have a lot of problems and therefore think that by taking drugs their problems shall be solved however that doesn't happen and this frustrates them more and this leads to committing suicide.

Table 17 .Drugs lead to poor relationship between friends, teachers and parents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	33	66
Agree	10	20
Strongly disagree	3	6
Disagree	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: field data

According to the table 33(66%) of the respondents strongly agree that drugs lead to poor relationship between friends, teachers and parents while 10(20%) agree, 3(6%) strongly disagree and 4(8%) disagree

According to the teachers those under the influence of drugs do not care and do not know what they are doing and therefore they end hurting the people close to them and hence leading to a poor relationship.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction.

The main purpose of the study was to determine the influence of drug abuse on learners in the selected primary schools of Kagundu Location Muranga South District Kenya. This chapter focuses on the discussions of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. Finally the chapter ends with suggestions for further research.

5.1 Discussions

The first research objective sought to determine the relationship between drug abuse and discipline of learners. The study found out that learners who were under the influence of drugs had cases of indiscipline. Under the influence of drugs they would bully their fellow learners, miss classes, and abuse who ever comes across them and also engage into sexual activities.

When one is under the influence of drugs he/she does not know what they are doing and this supported by the drug enforcement administration(2006) that When one takes drugs, parts of the brain start to disagree on what to do, and that creates a big problem. The brain can solve problems, be creative, be logical, make plans, make wise decisions, and do almost anything else one can think of. It was established that those who are found to be abusing drugs in school are expelled.

The second objective sought to identify the types of drugs the learners abused in school. It was established that the commonly abused drugs were alcohol, marijuana and cocaine. Alcohol was the main abused drug because it was easy to access and this is supported by Robert (2000) that alcohol one of the most popular and readily available of all types of drugs and controlled substances found on high school campuses. (Robert 2000). Marijuana was the second most abused drug by learners. According National Survey of Drug Use and Health (2004) girls began smoking marijuana earlier than boys. The study found out that alcohol had a strong effect on the learners because it made them drunk and therefore they would do things they did not know. The girls had access to the drugs by sneaking them into school or those who send them find a way of sneaking them in. it is very easy for learners to access drugs and this supported by Catherine

Mgendi (1997) that suppliers of smokable drugs and inhalants have moved closer to their customers, and in the process, have just become another link in the chain that has made drugs easily accessible to young Kenyans. The learners pay for the drugs using the pocket money given to them by their parents. It was established that when they ran out of money they would resort to stealing money so that they buy the drugs.

Finally the study sought to establish the effects of drugs on the learners. The study found out that drugs lead to poor performance in class, lead to expulsion from school, Learners drop out of school, learners behave badly in school, lead to death, lead to poor relationship between friends, teachers and parents. The study found out that learners under the influence of drugs missed classes and even though they attended class they would not pay attention which would lead to poor performance and this is supported by Mary (2000) that to the teen drug/alcohol user's their academic performance is severely impaired, along with his or her level of responsibility – such as skipping class, failing to complete assignments, etc. – speaks to the notion that drug and alcohol use is rampant throughout American middle and high schools. This abuse has produced teenage student body's with many abusers whose relationships, reputations, futures, wallets, self-images and especially grades suffer as a direct result of the teen drug abuse.

5.2 Conclusion

The major purpose of the study was to determine the influence of drug abuse on learners in the selected secondary Schools, in Kilifi District Kenya. The following conclusion can be drawn from the study.

Drugs have a negative effect on the discipline of learners when under the influence of drugs one does not know what she is doing and therefore they end up having discipline cases which lead to being expelled to school. Learners under the influence of drugs bully their fellow learners, abuse teachers and dodge classes.

The common types of drugs abused by learners are alcohol, marijuana and cocaine. And this is so because they are easily accessed. Alcohol is the easiest to access and therefore the most abused and yet it has the strongest effect on them.

The effects of drugs on the learners include poor performance in class, expulsion from school, Learners drop out of school, learners behave badly in school, death, poor relationship between friends, teachers and parents. The major effect drugs have on the learners is that they perform poorly in school and therefore drop out of school and some girls end up going on the streets and engage into prostitution.

Drugs have become a problem in schools and this is affecting the educational system since most of the children who begin school do not complete and drug abuse is one of the causes of school drop out. Solution to drug abuse should therefore be found.

5.3 Recommendations

Drugs have become common on the streets of Kenya and this has made it easy for learners to access them and therefore have become rampant in schools. Government should make sure that they track down all those dealing in drugs and prevent it from being accessed so easily.

The ministry of the education and school authorities should provide preventive measures by checking what enters in school and also discourage learners from taking drugs and also counsel those that are already taking drugs.

The community and parents are important in a child's life. They should therefore be sensitized and encouraged to participate in all programs that aim to solve the problem of drugs. The government should also include them in all the plans they make concerning the fight against drug abuse.

Most of learners who take drugs are depressed or have seen their parents take drugs and therefore parents should be an example to the their children by not abusing drugs in front of the

children. They should also detect early use of drugs and help their children to continue taking the drugs.

5.4 Suggestions for further research

Most of the studies that have been taken focus on preventing drug abuse and talk little on the causes of drug abuse. Research should therefore be made on the causes of drug abuse.

It was further noted that drugs and discipline need further study because little has been researched.

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APPENDIX I: TRANSMITAL LETTER



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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
INSTITUTE OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (IODL)

DATE:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INTRODUCTION LETTER FOR MS/MRS/MR

The above named is our student in Institute of Open and Distance Learning (IODL), pursuing a Diploma/Bachelors-degree in Education.


He/She wishes to carry out a research in your Organization on:
.
.

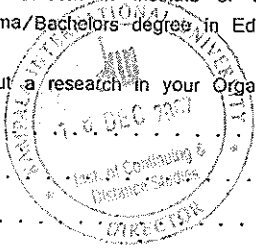
Case Study:

The research is a requirement for the award of a Diploma/Bachelors degree in Education.

Any assistance accorded to her regarding research will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,


MR. MUHWEZI, JOSEPH
HEAD, IN-SERVICE
IODL
DIRECTOR



APPENDIX II: STUDENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent

I am a student of Kampala International University carrying out an academic research on the topic "drug abuse and academic performance of learners in the selected primary schools of Kagundu Location Muranga South District Kenya." You have been randomly selected to participate in the study and are therefore kindly requested to provide an appropriate answer by either ticking the best option or give explanation where applicable. The answers provided will only be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

NB: do not write your name anywhere on this paper.

A) PERSONAL INFORMATION

GENDER

Male Female

AGE

10-12 15-and above

Class

B) DRUG ABUSE AND DISCIPLINE

1. Have you ever tried any drug?

Yes No

2. If yes how has it affected your discipline?

Bullied fellow learners

Missed and dodged classes

Involved in sexual activities

Involved in theft

3. Do you know of a friend who is involved in drug abuse?

Yes No

4. If yes how do they behave in school?

- Bullied fellow learners
- Missed and dodged classes
- Involved in sexual activities
- Involved in theft

5. How did you help your friend?

- Advised her to stop
- Reported her to the school authorities
- Did not do any thing

6. How are learners who abuse drugs treated by the school authorities?

- They are counseled
- They are expelled
- They are ignored

7. Have you been forced by any of your friends to take drugs.

- Yes No

8. If yes how did you handle it?

- Took the drugs
- Refused to take the drugs
- Reported her to the school authorities

9. How is the performance of learners who abuse drugs in class?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Bad

10. Do you know the reason why learners abuse drugs?

Yes

No

If yes please name the reasons

.....
.....
.....

C. Types of drugs

11. Listed below are types of drugs used today. State those that are commonly abused by learners and those that are abused but not often

Types of drugs	Commonly abused	abused but not commonly	Not abused
Marijuana			
Cocaine			
Nicotine			
Crack			
Bhang			
Opium			
Alcohol			

12. Which of the above drugs has a strong effect on learners ?

.....
.....

13. How do learners access these drugs?

.....
.....

14. What has the school authority done to stop entry of these drugs in school?

.....
.....
15. How do learners pay for these drugs?
.....
.....

16. When do they take these drugs and where?
.....
.....

d) EFFECTS OF DRUGS

Below are the effects of drugs on learners please tick the one you mostly agree with.

Effect	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree
Drugs lead to poor performance in class				
Drugs lead to expulsion from school				
Learners drop out of school because of drugs				
Because of drugs learners behave badly in school				
Drugs lead to death				
Drugs lead to poor relationship between friends, teachers and parents				