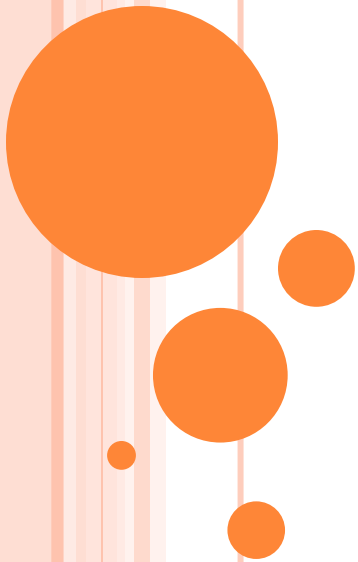


**SCHOOL CURRICULUM AS A STRATEGY TO CURB
DRUG AND SUSTANCE ABUSE IN PUBLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA**



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ABSTRACT

- ❖ **The presentation is based on a study conducted in the year 2012 and 2013.**
- ❖ **The main objective was to assess the effectiveness of the school curriculum in curbing drug and substance abuse (DSA) among students.**
- ❖ **Literature relating to school curriculum areas and curbing DSA in schools was reviewed.**
- ❖ **The study employed descriptive survey design.**
- ❖ **The study sample consisted of 35 head teachers and 420 students.**

REMAINS OF A SCHOOL DORMITORY IN NAIROBI



YOUTHS INJECT DRUGS/STUDENTS RIOTS



Drug abuse creeping into primary schools – study

'Dangers of drug abuse should be included in primary school curricula'

Yugendree Naidoo

DRUG abuse, rife in many South African high schools, is now creeping into primary schools, prompting the Medical Research Council's (MRC's) alcohol and drug research unit to recommend that the dangers of drug use should be included in primary school curricula.

The latest report by the MRC (South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (Sacendu) notes that children as young as seven are abusing dagga, with harder drugs being used by some children in higher primary school grades.

Interviews with school principals and children in Cape Town reinforced the findings.

A grade four pupil in Kewtown, part of the suburb of Athlone, said he knew of a grade six boy at his school who smoked dagga in a tree at the back of the school premises during break. "I've also seen how children smoke tik with the lolly (glass pipe) and use unгах (cheap heroine). They cut it up on a piece of tile with a blade and then either smoke or sniff it," he said.

Some sold it at school, he said. He was fully conversant with how dagga was cleaned and packed into a broken bottle neck and even how to best smoke it.

A group of primary school boys interviewed on the street said dagga was often smoked by their peers in a hookah pipe.

Sometimes they replaced the water in the pipe with alcohol, referred to as a "juicy pipe".

The grade seven pupil said most children first started smoking on a parent's or elder brother's hookah before trying out cigarettes, then dagga, and later moving onto harder drugs.

The principal of Norma Road Primary School in the Athlone

area of Silvertown, Junaid Daries, said two 13-year-old boys at the school had been caught with dagga last year. Daries said "five to six" children displayed signs of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Additionally, "tik babies" – children whose mothers smoked tik during pregnancy – were entering the school system, he said.

Cypress Primary School principal Bruce Titus said he was not aware of any of his pupils abusing drugs but he was in favour of implementing "basic level" drug prevention programmes at primary school.

Bokmakierie Primary principal Larry Lewis said the school was already involved in substance abuse awareness programmes as "it's shocking to see how much children know about drugs".

Sacendu's recommendation is based on the Report on the Risk and Protective factors associated with Substance Abuse among the Youth in selected areas of the Eastern Cape: Implication for Prevention and Treatment Services commissioned by the Eastern Cape department of social development's population unit.

It states there was a worrying trend of early age onset of drug use, with peak usage at about 17.

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University conducted surveys and focus groups involving just fewer than 1000 children aged 16 to 21. In finding out how old some of the 54% of participants who used drugs were when they started, the researchers found that one participant started at age seven and at least three at age eight.

Sacendu's senior scientist, Andreas Plöddemann, said younger children abusing drugs was a concern as programmes were developed for adults, not children. – West Cape News



DAMAGE DONE: A drug addict shoots up heroin in Cape Town. Schools in the province have confirmed the MRC's findings that illegal drug use has spread to primary schools. Picture: GALLO IMAGES



I've also seen how children smoke tik with the lolly (glass pipe) and use unгах (cheap heroine) – A grade four pupil, Kewton



BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Drug and substance abuse among the youth is a major challenge facing the Kenya education sector.

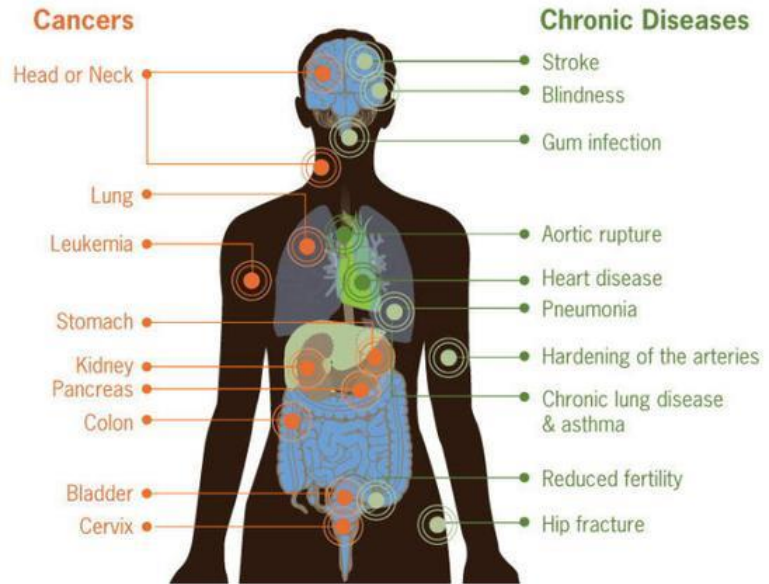
- ❖ It creates social-economic hardships**
- ❖ breeds misery**
- ❖ increases crime**
- ❖ Causes Violence among students**
- ❖ Affects all nations of the world**
- ❖ War against DSA must be fought by all**

TYPES AND CAUSES

- ❖ commonly abused drugs by students are;
 - ❖ cigarettes 77%
 - ❖ Bhang 68%
 - ❖ *miraa.* 61%
 - ❖ Alcohol 58%
- ❖ parental absence 55%
- ❖ harsh discipline 42%
- ❖ Lack of awareness 29%
- ❖ ease of availability 87%
- ❖ Stress 64%
- ❖ Peer pressure 84%
- ❖ Rebellion 68%
- ❖ Academic pressure 26%



EFFECTS OF DSA



GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

- ❖ **Establishment of inter-ministerial drug control coordinating committee (1995)**
- ❖ **The drug master plan (1999)**
- ❖ **Establishment of NACADA (2001)**
- ❖ **National strategy on prevention, control and mitigation of DSA in Kenya 2008-2013**
- ❖ **Policy documents,
Sessional papers
The alcoholic drinks control act 2010.**
- ❖ **The Ministry of Education established DSA departments in every district**
- ❖ **Infused DSA in the school curriculum**
- ❖ **Trained and posted Guidance and Counselling teachers to schools**

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

General: To assess the extent to which the head teachers use school curriculum to curb DSA among students of public secondary school in Nairobi County.

Specific to;

❖ **Establish whether the life skills syllabus is used to curb DSA in schools.**

Assess the extent to which head teachers use classroom lessons to curb DSA in schools.

Determine the effectiveness of co- curricular activities (sports drama and music) in curbing DSA in schools.

Assess the effectiveness of school rules in curbing DSA in schools.

AREAS OF CURRICULUM USED TO CURB DSA

- ❖ **Life skills syllabus**
- ❖ **Topics in biology and CRE curriculum**
- ❖ **Co-curricular activities(sports, drama & music)**
- ❖ **School rules**

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Head teachers use formal and non-formal curriculum to curb DSA.
- ❖ Life skills were not taught in most schools since it is not examinable.
- ❖ The content on DSA in the life skills syllabus was not adequate considering the importance of the topic to learners
- ❖ Content on DSA in the school curriculum is inadequate since it appears as sub topic or content within a sub topic.
- ❖ Co- curricular activities are more effective than lessons on DSA and school rules in curbing DSA in schools.
- ❖ School rules meant to deal with DSA could not be enforced as they contravene government policy
- ❖ Content on DSA in life skills is inadequate and the subject is not taught in most schools therefore it is **ineffective** in curbing DSA.
- ❖ Content on drug and substance abuse in the school curriculum was found to be inadequate and could not equip learners with sufficient skills and knowledge that could help them resist the allure of drugs and substances. Hence the strategy is **not effective**.
- ❖ In all schools visited co-curricular activities were more effective in curbing DSA. Drama, music and sports were used to convey messages on DSA in a more non formal way; hence the strategy is **effective**.
- ❖ School rules aimed at curbing DSA could not be enforced making the strategy **ineffective**



POLICY IMPLICATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) should reorganise the secondary school curriculum provide additional time in the syllabus to teach drug related issues separately in addition to the content infused in other subjects.**
2. **Head teachers should:**
 - a) **Ensure all students participate in co- curricular activities to keep them occupied and reduce stress associated with academic demands.**
 - b) **Ensure that students are taught life skills as provided for in the syllabus.**
3. **The government should use agencies like NACADA, NGOs, and FBOs to;**
 - give talks**
 - support rehabilitation programmes**
 - distribute materials posters and pamphlets; that educate youth on dangers of drug and substance abuse.**
4. **Address the culture of impunity where drug barons use students as drug peddlers and threaten school administrators.**

IT BEGINS AND ENDS WITH YOU!!!!



THANK

YOU

