

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AND ADDICTION  
AMONG YOUTHS IN YENEGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF  
BAYELSA STATE**

**Dr. Elliot.A. Sibiri**  
Department of Sociology,  
Niger Delta University,  
Wilberforce Island,  
P.O.Box 071, Yenegoa  
Bayelsa State.  
Email: [oyinkulesibiri@yahoo.com](mailto:oyinkulesibiri@yahoo.com)

&

**Dr. Charles C. Nnajieta**  
Department of Educational Foundations,  
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education,  
P.M.B 1033, Owerri  
Imo State.  
Email: [drcharlesnnajieta@yahoo.com](mailto:drcharlesnnajieta@yahoo.com)

**Abstract**

The study examined the socio-economic effects of drug abuse and addiction among youths in Yenegoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. A psychological theory of crimes was used for the analysis of the study. One hundred and ten (110) respondents participated in the study as respondents. The researchers made use of questionnaire as the instrument to obtain data from the respondents in a non-probabilistic (accidental) sample method at selected 'joints' (beer parlour) within Yenagoa City. Hypothesis was postulated and tested at alpha 0.05 level of significance in order to determine whether drug abuse and addiction promotes violent crimes in the society. The findings revealed that drug abuse and addiction promoted violent crimes ranging from domestic violence and robbery. Based on the positive result of the findings, recommendations were made on how to minimize drug abuse and addiction. Moral trainings for the youths at all levels, appropriate sanctioning for the offenders as well as establishing guidance and counseling units across board for the youths were suggested. In addition, effective and robust rehabilitation programmes should be provided for the drug addicts and other drug offenders.

**Keywords:** Drug abuse, Addiction, Youths, Crime, Marijuana, Cocaine, Rape.

## **Introduction**

The socio-economic impact of drug abuse and addiction has drawn much attention not only at the local level but at the international community level organizations level such as the UN, FAO and the WHO. The problem of Drug Abuse has for some time now escalated in Nigeria. It is a phenomenon which is being accentuated by the present economic quagmire in which the nation has found itself with its attendant social discontent (Asada, 2010).

Many youths from diverse socio-cultural or family backgrounds are found to be victims of drug abuse as they are easily vulnerable to experimenting with drugs to the point of addiction. As defined by the World Health Organisation, WHO, (1969) drug addiction is a state of periodic or chronic intoxication produced by the repeated consumption of a drug on continuous or periodic basis in order to experience its mental effect and sometimes to avoid discomfort of the absence of the drug. Certainly, drug abuse and addiction are potentially dangerous and hazardous and produce serious negative effects to the victims.

Drug abuse, however, does not only mean deviation from dutiful taking of prescribed drugs by the hospitals or clinics as the case may be in self-medication, but also refers to the illegal use of such dangerous substance as marijuana, LSD, heroin, cocaine, opium, and other socially

disapproved drugs. Addiction has been the major cause of mental illness and some socially unacceptable behavior in the society. The large numbers of psychiatric patients in the hospitals, streets and in the rehabilitation centers are to a large extent victims of drug addiction. This unfortunate situation has become very serious and pathetic in Nigeria.

Drug abuse and addiction have caused and promoted anti-social behavior with some negative socio-economic consequences on our political institutions and the entire society. The negative consequences include cultism, violent crimes, prostitution, motor accidents, suicides, terrorism and so, on. The bottom line of it is that it portrays our society in the international community negatively.

## **Statement of Problem**

Because of the growing use of illegal drugs and its addiction, it has become a menace cutting across every segment of the society in Sub-Saharan Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The fact is that most anti-social behavior such as cultism, lesbianism, homosexuality, terrorism, prostitution, violent crimes, rape and a host of others derive their root from drug abuse and addiction. Drugs are bought without prescription in drug stores (sometimes as self-medication) as long as they can be paid for, no

matter how dangerous they may be to the users.

The UN chronicle online (1998) volume xxxv has it that one of the most important social and an economic consequence of drug abuse is crime. The health costs associated with drug abuse have both social and economic prices. It also stated that the use of illicit drugs and addiction also lead to costly mistakes and accidents, high job turnover, high rate of absenteeism at work, fatigue, theft, and other related crimes such as ghastly accidents, assassination, corruption and terrorism.

The use of hard drugs during pregnancy can be risky for the expectant mother as well the fetus, the new born and the child. And this can affect the socio-economic and ethnic clashes in the country throughout the world and the associated costs are borne by the entire society.

According to Asada (2010), "Drug abuse is tearing apart our society spawning crimes, spreading diseases such as HIV/AIDS and killing our youths and our future". This means that the use of illicit drugs have the potential to ruin the lives and the future of our youths.

### **Purpose of the Study**

1. To determine the causal factors of drug abuse and addiction among youths.
2. To know what constitutes drug abuse and addiction in Nigeria.

3. To make recommendations based on the findings of the research on how to minimize drug abuse and addiction in Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the causes of drug abuse and addiction in Nigeria?
2. What constitutes drug abuse and addiction in Nigeria?
3. What are the panaceas to drug abuse and addiction in Nigeria?

### **Research Hypothesis**

**Ho ; Drug abuse and addiction do not promote violent crime in Nigeria.**

**H<sub>R</sub> ; Drug abuse and addiction promotes violent crimes in the society.**

### **Literature Review**

#### **Definition of Drug Abuse and Addiction**

According to Dorland's Medical Dictionary **drug abuse** can be defined as the habitual use of drugs to alter one's mood, emotion, or state of consciousness. On the other hand, American Heritage Medical Dictionary defined drug abuse as the use of a drug for a non-therapeutic effect. Some of the most commonly abused are alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, methaqualone, opium, alkaloids, synthetic opioids, benzodiazepines,

including flunitrazepam, (Rohypnol), gamma-hydroxybutyrate, 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA, ecstasy), phencyclidine, ketamine, and anabolic steroids. Drug abuse may lead to organ damage, addiction and disturbed patterns of behavior. Some illicit drugs, such as heroin, lysergic acid diethylamide and phencyclidine hydrochloride, have no recognized therapeutic effect in humans. Use of these drugs often incurs criminal penalty in addition to the potential for physical, social and psychologic harm.

From the above definitions of drug abuse, all sum to define it as the use of drugs for purposes other than

for which it is prescribed by professional medical practioner recommendations. Put it differently, drug abuse is the use of drugs in ways that deviate from the norms of a particular group of people or a given society. On the other hand, drug addiction according to the World Health Organization, WHO, is a state of periodic or chronic intoxication produced by repeated consumption of a drug on continuous basis in order to experience its mental effect and sometimes to avoid the discomfort of the absence of the drug. In other words, it means persistent use of drug and when not in use by the user there is experience of discomfortability.

**A Table showing the three Categories of Drug Abuse & Addiction**

Category of Drug abuse and addicted	Examples	Normal Dosage	Abnormal Dosage Effect
<b>Narcotics</b>	Opium, heroin, synthetic opiates, opiate derivatives, morphines, etc.	Addicts opined that they induce psychological cravings when taking in small quantity not for a long time.	Long-run takings reduce Ambition, sexual desire, creating a feeling of lethargy and idleness, decreases central nervous system from proper functioning and eventually dulling the senses.
<b>Depressants &amp; Sedatives</b>	Alcohol, barbiturates are prominent in this category.	Calming and sleeping inducing when taking moderately.	A state of arousal and exhilaration, drowsiness and stuporous behaviour
<b>Stimulants</b>	Amphetamines, and barbiturates	Treating epilepsy, high blood pressure, insomania, mental disorder, cases of fatigue and providing energy when used moderately.	Leads to erratic behavior, and euphoric, and eventually leads to psychological independence.

Source: Web via free encyclopedia

## Causes of Drug Abuse and Addiction

There are many factors scholars have identified to be attributable to the causes of drug abuse although these factors intertwine in their explanations as to the cause of drug abuse. They are as follow:

- **Psychological factor:** One of the reasons advanced as to why youths easily get lured into drugs is the need to satisfy their curiosity as they may want to do what they see others engage in and gradually they acquire tolerance as time progresses thereby resulting to psychological addiction (Ndubusi, 1988). Psychological addiction refers to the existence of a strong desire or craving for the drug and an inability on the part of the person to discontinue its use even when he consciously desires to stop. It is an assertion that personality traits and emotional factors are responsible for drug abuse and addiction. This may include peer pressure, where the addicts feel a sense of belonging and being accepted by a particular group of persons to which he/she belongs. Some engage in drug abuse in order to relieve themselves tensions from frustration, depression and anxiety which they may be facing.
- **Biological factor:** The role of gene in drug abuse and addiction is paramount especially for alcoholism. According to studies, children of alcoholic addict are more vulnerable to alcoholism than children of non-alcoholic parents (Like father like son). This means, the gene to be addicted to alcoholism may have been transmitted to the offspring during reproduction process. In another explanation, the central nervous system of individuals varies and is more sensitive than the other. Hence, individuals may experience intense euphoria or more profound reduction of unpleasant feeling of danger, depression or anxiety when taking a particular drug. This may be due to differences in chemical composition of the body and the impulses involved.
- **Economic Factor:** Studies have shown that youths indulge in drug abuse as a result of economic down turn such as recession accompanied by loss of jobs, unemployment, poverty, etc. In order to cope with this level of economic situation and to allay frustration that follow, drugs are taken in excess or even alcohol so that there could psychological diversion of the disgruntled situation of economic down-turn.
- **Social Factor:** This factor accounts for social disorganization and strain experience by individuals as a result of

disruptions from the normal traditional bonding structure either from the family (marriage fractured, divorce, separation, etc.) religious institutions, community or the entire society at large. Inadequate socialization of the child and normlessness may equally be attributable to drug abuse and addiction. The consequent of this is to taking of drugs consequently addiction to the drugs in order to cope with the disruptions. Peer groups or pressures are not exempted in providing explanation to the causes of drug abuse and addiction under social factor. This is because studies have shown that social influence and peer pressure has a very strong link predisposing an individual to drug abuse and addiction.

- **Environmental Factor:** The environment to which an individual lives may also portend an individual to drug abuse and addiction. As studies have shown those living in cold regions may be prompted to drug abuse and addiction in order to enhance their adaptation to such environment. For example, in UK, more youths are found to have been smoking cigarette and cocaine due to the cold they said they were being exposed to in the region in order to generate internal body heat to their system. Apart from the climatic condition, the easy access to the

drugs such as heroin, India hemp farms situated in some parts of the country such as Ondo, Ekiti, Oyo etc. may predispose youths to experimenting it and consequently addiction.

### **Effects of Drug Abuse and Addiction on the Society**

Writing on the effects of drug abuse and addiction on the society, Asada (2010), a paper posted to the web site via free encyclopedia identified amongst others the following factors:

- **Crime:** Majority of crimes related behavior are associated with drug abuse and addiction. Such includes terrorism, rape, prostitution, theft, and armed-robbery violent crimes and so on. This is because some of the addicts said they are easily motivated to commit those crimes when they either drunk or smoke.
- **Accidents:** Many of the road accidents and domestic accidents are attributed to excess drug taking (e.g alcohol during intoxication) and this may result to loss of lives and property.
- **Deformity and dysfunction of Body organs:** Drug abuse and addiction more often than not results to permanent deformity of some parts of the body of the addict. This may include injury sustained during intoxication process as the case may be in

alcohol or as a result of internal damage resulting from the drugs taking without medical prescription. In other words, it may result to permanent disability of some body organs or parts such as erectile dysfunction.

- **Insanity:** Drug abuse and addiction may result to malfunctioning of the brain thereby leading to insanity or mental defect or illness or disorder. Most of the insane persons in the psychiatric hospitals and clinics and in the streets are said to have been caused by excessive drugs taking and addiction.
- **Spread Diseases:** Diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually related diseases are traceable to use of drug abuse and addiction which predispose people to rape, lesbianism, homosexuality, and having sex with multiple partners etc. In another perspective, the effects of some of the drugs abused are body diseases such as cancer, cardiac arrest, loss of memory, red and blood-shot eyes, insomania, etc. which are vulnerable to endanger human health.
- **Teenage Pregnancy:** Some of the teenage pregnancy records we have in our societies today are traceable to drug abuse and addiction. This could tarnish their image and their future.
- **Waste of resources:** The money expends on the procurement of

some of the drugs abused are very expensive. As such, the addict could have used the money for things that will have positive impact on them instead. But they are more less spent on thing that will endanger their health.

- **Depression (bipolar disorder) and Anger:** Those who are drug addicts are more prone to depression and anger than those who are not. This because the drugs in question that have been abused would in no doubt prompt them to anger when there is a very little misunderstanding or stressful situation. And this will eventually lead to depression or psychotic disorder.
- **Illegal business syndicates:** Since the use of illicit drugs is increasing in the society astronomically, people who thought they are rational has ventured into the business of the drugs both at the local and international markets e.g. cocaine, heroin, etc. as many of them are arrested at the airports, seaports, and borders.
- **Dent Nigeria's Image:** Consequent upon the involvement of people in the trans-border crime of drug trafficking and abuse most especially cocaine, it portrayed the image of Nigeria negatively in the 'eyes' of its counterparts in South-Africa, UK, USA, and the international community

organization (particularly the UN and its agencies), etc.

- **Suicide:** The use of drug abuse and addiction may lead to an intentional act of killing one self. This is because the user (s) in question might be out of his/her senses during the act of committing the suicide.
- **Rhabdomyolysis:** This is a rapid deterioration and destruction of skeletal muscle. Some of the causes of rhabdomyolysis include severe burns, muscle trauma, coma, etc. resulting from excessive intake of alcohol.
- **Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD):** Most of the drug addicts particularly in Nigeria are usually found to develop antisocial personality that sometimes predisposed them to such behavior.

**Fatigue:** There is no doubt to state here that those addicted to drug abuse and addict most often than not experience feelings of lack of energy and motivation (both mental and physical) when they are taking most especially when they are intoxicated. As such the need to discourage excessive take of alcohol should be advocated

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Psychological Theory of Crime**

In this theory, criminals are seen to have been suffering from mental disorder with split personality

being the consequences of improper socialization by the family and other agents of socialization such as the church, mosque, schools or the government. Psychologists see abnormal experience rather than abnormal genes as the basis for deviant behavior as we can see in drug abuse and addiction. This experience produces 'character defects' and maladjustments personalities, which in turn predispose people to criminal behavior (Haralambos, 1980 cited in Olumati, 2007).

According to Olumati (2007) who argues that during the process of socialization there is a faulty gap which ought not to have been overlooked. This gap however must have been erupted from the mother-child relationship. In other words there was inadequate parental love and care during childhoods that have led to lack of sense of insecurity, which produces hostile relationship with parents particularly children from broken homes. Psychologically, crime causation are attributed to 'feeble-mindedness'. According to Henry Goddard who posited that the greatest single cause of delinquency and crime such as drug abuse and addiction is low-grade mentality, much of it within the limit of 'feeble-mindedness'. According to Goddard every feeble-mindedness person is a potential criminal and delinquent (Goddard, 1914).

Abrahamson (1945) in Olumati (2007) argued that criminal conduct



results from mental disorder or impairment because of serious psychosis, and Grossbard (1926:171078, *ibid*) posited that criminality is a result of neurotic tendencies or emotional disturbances of a mild nature such as the frustration encounter from job loss, and other economic problems faced by individuals. The psycho-analytic theory of Sigmund Freud has also advanced for the purposes of explicating criminal and delinquent behavior. The theory argues that criminal behavior is a result of inner conflict, emotional problems, and unconscious feelings of insecurity, inadequacy and inferiority (Haskel & Yablonsky, 1970:349 in Olumati, 2007).

Criminal behavior and delinquency such as drug abuse and addiction are regarded by this theory as symptoms of underlying emotional problem. Vold (1979) noted that criminal behavior under this theoretical orientation, simply and directly, as a substitute response of repressed complexes. The conflict in the unconscious mind give rise to feelings of guilt and anxiety with a consequent desire for punishment to remove the guilt feelings and restore a proper balance of good against evil

such as drinking alcohol to stupor and taking drug abuse.

### Research Methodology

A descriptive survey research design was adopted. One hundred and ten (110) respondents drawn from Yenagoa LGA was selected respectively from hospitals, police and the social welfare unit of the ministry of Youth and Women affairs within Yenagoa Metropolis. The sample technique used was proportional purposive which involve the selection only those who have records of drug use. The proportionate distribution of the (110) respondents as follows, hospitals (50) police (35) Ministry (25). The researcher equally adopted observations method in the study due to the nature of the subject under investigation.

Simple percentage (%) and chi square at an alpha 0.05 level of significance in a table-format were adopted for the analysis of data collected for the study. In the secondary sources of data collection, materials from the library such as textbooks, internet, journals, etc were used particularly for the literature review.

**Table 1 Age Distribution of the Respondents**

Age	Respondent	Percentage (%)
15-19	22	20.0
20-24	40	36.4
25-29	18	16.4

<b>30-34</b>	16	14.5
<b>35-39</b>	14	12.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	110	100.0
<b>Source: Author's Field Work</b>		

Respondents were asked of their ages in years and presented in the table above, 20% said between 15-19 years old, 36.4% said between 20-24 years, 16.4% said between 25-29 years old, 14.5% said between 30-34 years old. While 12.7% said between 35-39 years old. This indicates that the age

bracket 20-24 years old has the highest percentage of respondents, followed by 15-19 years old of age bracket. Followed by 25-29 years old as indicated by 16.4%, followed by 35-34 years old indicated by 14.5% while the least is the age bracket 35-39 years old indicated by 12.7%.

**Table 2 Sex Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Male</b>	78	70.1
<b>Female</b>	32	29.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	110	100.0

**Source: Author's Field Work**

The table showed that 70.1% of the respondents were Male while 29.1% of them were female. This indicated that

male has the higher respondents indicated by 70.1%.

**Table 3 Distribution by Education Level**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Not Educated</b>	15	13.6
<b>Primary Edu.</b>	14	12.7
<b>Secondary Edu.</b>	53	48.2
<b>Tertiary Edu.</b>	28	25.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	110	100.0

**Source: Author's Field Work**

The above table indicated that 13.6% were not educated at all, 12.7% primary education, 48.2% secondary education and 25.5% had tertiary education. This implies that the highest

percentage of respondents indicated by 48.2% only attended secondary education followed by 25.5% who attended tertiary education followed by 12.7% attended primary education.

While 13.6% of the respondents has no

formal education at all.

**Table 4 Distribution by Source of Drug Abused**

Sources	Respondent	Percentage
Chemist	18	16.4
Parents	14	12.7
Friends	51	46.4
Hospitals	11	10.0
Others	16	14.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author's Field Work

The table shows that 16.4% of the respondents said they sourced the drug they abused from the chemist, 12.7% of them sourced from their parents, 46.4% sourced from friends, 10.0% of them sourced theirs from hospitals, while 14.5% of them said from other sources. This indicated that the largest percentage of the respondents sourced their illicit drugs

from friends as a result of social influence or peer pressure, followed by 16.4% who sourced from chemist without doctors' prescription. 14.5% of them from other sources. On the other hand, the least percentage of respondents sourced theirs from the hospitals. That is to show that few of the respondents took drugs following doctors' prescription.

**Table 5 Distribution by Drugs Commonly Used**

Drugs	Respondent	Percentage
Indian hemp	32	29.1
Cocaine	6	5.5
Alcohol	19	17.3
Cigarette	48	43.6
Others	5	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Author' Field Work

The table above showed that 29.1% of the respondents were commonly found using Indian hemp, 5.5% used cocaine, 17.3% used alcohol, 43.6% used cigarette, while 4.5% of the respondent were found abused other forms of drugs. This

implied that the commonly abused drugs by the respondents is cigarette as indicated by 4.5% (48) respondents, followed by Indian hemp 29.1% (32), followed by 17.3% of cigarette, followed by 5.5% of cocaine, and 4.5% of other drugs.

## Testing Hypothesis

**Ho 1. Drug abuse and addiction do not promote violent crime in Nigeria.**

**Table 6.0. Contingency Table**

Drug Abuse	Violent Crime		TOTAL
	Domestic	Robbery	
Strongly Agree	15	5	20
Agree	23	10	33
Disagree	18	9	27
Don't Know	14	16	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>110</b>

Source: Author's Field Work

**Table 6.1 Chi Square Analysis to show drug abuse promoting violent crime**

Drug Abuse	fo	Fe	fo-fe	(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup>	(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup> /fe
Strongly Abuse (D)	15	12.72	2.28	5.1984	0.4087
Strongly Abuse (R)	05	7.27	-2.27	5.1984	0.7150
Agree (D)	23	21	2	4	0.1905
Agree (R)	10	12	-2	4	0.3333
Disagree (D)	18	17.18	0.82	0.6724	0.0391
Disagree (R)	09	9.82	-0.82	0.6724	0.0685
Don't Know (D)	14	19.09	-5.09	25.9081	1.3572
Don't Know (R)	16	10.91	5.09	25.9081	2.3747
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>5.4870</b>

Observed  $X^2 = 5.4870$

Critical  $X^2 = 3.182$

Degree of freedom =  $(4-1)(2-1) = 3$

Level of significance = 0.05

Table 6.1 reveals that the Critical value  $3.182 <$  the observed  $X^2$  value  $5.4870$  at degree of freedom of 3 and 0.05 level of significance. The result therefore shows that the  $H_0$  should be rejected while we accept the  $H_R$ . This implies that drug abuse and addiction promotes violent crimes in Nigeria most especially domestic violence and robbery.

### The Findings of the Study

The empirical evidences of the study revealed the following:

1. Age bracket 20-24 years old were found to be more prone to drug abuse as indicated by table 1, followed by age bracket 15-19 years old, etc.
2. Male were more prone to drug abuse and addiction than female counterpart as indicated by table 2.
3. Secondary students were found to be more addicted than other levels of education as shown on table 3.
4. Most drug addicts and those found to have abused drugs sourced their drugs from friends and not from the hospitals. This implies that social influence and peer pressure had greater magnitude of influencing the addicts.
5. Drugs that were commonly abused were found to be cigarette and Indian hemp as indicated on table 5.
6. That drug abuse and addiction promotes violent crimes within the sphere of our society as indicated by the tested hypothesis on table 6.1.

### **Conclusion**

The effects of illicit drug abuse outstripped the purported positive aspects of the use of the illicit drug. In this however, in the midst of all these incidence of drug abuse in the country, there is a need to devise pragmatic panaceas for its aversion in the country both by the government and non-governmental organization in order to find lasting solutions to this endemic social problem in the country. Drug abuse and addiction is a social pathology that needs urgent diagnosis and treatment particularly in Nigeria; we should not allow it to be with us any longer. All the resources, needed to combat this menace must be made available by the government.

### **Recommendations**

In the light of the findings of this study, certain measures have to be taken by the policy makers, the government and other relevant social institutions such as the family and religious institutions to put concerted efforts to reduce if not eradicate the use of illicit drugs in our society.

1. Parents and religious institutions should step up moral training for the youths at their tender age discouraging them from the use of illicit drugs as well as enlightening them on the adverse effects of drug abuse on their health, society and human dignity.
2. Guidance and counseling units should be established in all schools and other public places in order to guide and counsel youths on the escalating and adverse effects of drug abuse on human health and their future.

3. National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, and National Orientation Agency, NOA, should intensify their efforts on anti-drug campaigns through workshops, symposia, publication of books cutting across all nooks and crannies of the country emphasizing on the need to discord the use of illicit drugs in the country by our teeming youths.
4. Education Ministry must as a matter of fact redesign its education curricula to include DRUG EDUCATION at all levels of education in order to arrest the situation of drug abuse at various schools. This may also include organizing lectures, rallies, seminars and film shows for the Nigerian youths on the adverse effects of drug abuse in their respective schools and community levels.
5. The gravity of the constitutional sanction that goes with drug related offences should be published with a view for public enlightenment to deter potential users of illicit drugs.
6. Considering the global technological advancement, sophisticated communication gadgets that can easily detect drug pushers should be installed and used to monitor the influx of people throughout our borders, airports and seaports so that the illicit drug pushers can be detected and brought to book for prosecution.
7. Proper rehabilitation of drug criminals should be encouraged to deter both potential drug criminals and already prosecuted ones from going back.
8. Employment opportunities should be created to absorb the unemployed youths so as to escape from the economic factors predisposing individuals to illicit drugs.
9. All psychotic addicts must be confined to mental homes and given treatment to ensure withdrawals and rehabilitation.
10. Various community leaders should be involved in combatting this menace through community policing of the addicts and drug abuse in their respective communities before handing over to appropriate authorities for prosecution.
11. NDLEA and other law enforcement agencies should be well-remunerated and improve on their working conditions so as to discourage them from taking bribes that can prevent them from sanctioning illicit drugs offenders.
12. Above all, government at all levels should endeavor to fight against corruption among ranks and files of its agencies in order to combat the menace of drug abuse and addiction in our country.

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