



UNDERSTANDING DRUG ABUSE WITH RESPECT TO THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTAL THEORY

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Abstract

Public secondary schools, Colleges and Universities as one of the organisations can be among of the organisations whereby its students are in high risk of being affected with drug abuse since its people have opportunities in various involvements within their areas. Above all, the social development theory underlies the procedures in developing programs that have to promote bonding and positive behaviors to development. According to the social development theory, it was suggested that drug use and other related deviant behaviors rise up from interactions with the primary socialization sources such as family, the school, and peer clusters, so this shows that students in our public schools are in a very risk of falling into drug abuse since their primary socialisation starts from schools and this can contribute to negative impacts towards their academic performance. Drug consume cause various bad effects in their life. Like harmful effect on physical health and mental health. Drug is also reason of their various behavioral problems. Drug also effects their academic performance. Drug use and dependence can cause declining performance at classes. This paper focus on understanding drug abuse with respect to the Social Developmental Theory.

Keywords: Drug addiction, Alcohol addiction, Academic achievement.

Introduction

The social development theory as well states that there is no direct relationship of individual characteristics and personality traits to drug use and deviance but in nearly all cases influence those impacts only when they affect the interactions between the individual and the primary socialization sources. So, from the above explanation the researchers show that although there is no direct relationship of individual characteristics and personality traits to drug use and deviance but students are in risk towards their academic issues since one can be influenced to those deviant behaviours only when they interact each other. Drug addiction is a devastating problem which is seen among many people in present society. Mainly young students are highly addicted to drugs. Now-a-days a remarkable increase of drug use among college students has been observed. A large number of studies tried to identify whether there are direct and/or indirect causal links between consumption of addictive substances and poor educational attainment. Additionally, drug addiction may undermine students' progress by making them less likely to attend classes or keep up with their studies. Students consume drugs not only because of entertainment but also due to depression, anxiety, family problem and bad friend groups. Besides, drugs are now very easily available to college students who frequently buy drugs in illegal way with their pocket money and other income sources like tuitions, part time jobs. So, they are walking through darkness. So, their normal lives have been hampered. Drug consumption has a devastating effect on not only their health but also on their educational life that may hamper achievement of a nice career.

According to Gall and Gall (2005) theory can be defined as an explanation of just certain existing things in terms of underlying constructs and set of basic ideas which relate constructs to each other. Furthermore (Eze and Omeje, 1999) assert that, the theories of drug abuse would indicate that some people surely depend on certain drugs for their survival depending to the number of reasons. According to them the main emphasis of the theories was that people have their personal reasons as to why they depending on one type of the drug or the other. This paper therefore used the social developmental theory so as to catch up with the problem addressed.

Understanding drug abuse with respect to the Social Developmental Theory

According to Hawkins and Weis (2002) who initially developed the social development theory suggested that people normally maintain some bonds to groups and sometimes to organizations especially when they come across to opportunities for involvement, possess necessary skills for involvement and when they receive positive returns regarding their participation and once an individual bonds to a context it is said that such individuals are more likely to behave according to the norms and beliefs of those groups.

Therefore, public secondary schools as one of the organisations can be among of the organisations whereby its students are in high risk of being affected with drug abuse since its people have opportunities in various involvements within their areas. Above all, the social development theory underlies the procedures in developing programs that have to promote bonding and positive behaviors to development. According to their study it was suggested that drug use and other related deviant behaviors rise up from interactions with the primary socialization sources such as family, the school, and peer clusters, so this shows that students in our public schools



are in a very risk of falling into drug abuse since their primary socialisation starts from schools and this can contribute to negative impacts towards their academic performance.

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Many years passed, the issue of drug abuse and other illicit substances among youth, adolescence and adults it is said to be a burning issue in the history of the mankind. There are many researchers and authors who have reported various negative impacts among students who involved in drug abuse like HIV/AIDS, school absenteeism, destructive, poor academic performance and other deviant behaviors (**Davis, 2001**).

According to UNDCP, 2005, stated that almost each country in the world faces the same consequences as the results of damage being contributed by drug abuse. The World Health Organization approximated that 1.1 billion people in the world representing 1/3 of the total population above the age of 15 years were reported to have consumed the so-called tobacco, in terms of the cigarettes whereby among these smokers, 700 million of them were males and unfortunately enough these people were reported to have been living in developing countries (WHO, 2004). Furthermore, it was reported that the use of cigarettes normally leads to the use of other drugs such as cannabis, khat, cocaine and heroin among others (**Ronald and Davis, 2011**).

According to (Tanzania Government Gazette, 1998) as cited in (**Masibo, et al., 2013**) explained that in the USA, students who consume marijuana obviously are twice likely to obtain under average marks or failing grades and school dropout and this reveals that drug abuse is a big problem for the school going adolescents because it lowers academic ability and performance of a student (Tanzania Government Gazette, 1998). Moreover (**Douglas, 2004**) asserted that drugs abuse does not only harm the body, mind and soul of an individual but also when drug dependency develops more, adolescents can no longer trust themselves.

Similarly, **Walter, 2002** as cited in (**Masibo, et al., 2013**) said that always chemically dependent adolescents can change their peer group just to include in drinking and drug using friends and once they are in such situation, then they slowly lose all self-esteem and depression starts to set in however, the addicts are affected in many ways depending on the type of drug abused.

According to study by **Henning et al, 2004** on cigarette use indicated that cigarette composes some nicotine which has demonstrated dose related euphoric effects similar to those of cocaine and morphine and their research revealed that some of children became hooked on cigarettes at any age and the use of cigarettes according to the research it was found to cause the worst of all drug habits found in the smoking of tobacco. On top of that use the toxic chemical in cigarettes causes addiction, brain damage, impaired reasoning and will power (**Wood, 2004**). Apart from that it was pinpointed that too much of alcohol use revealed to lower down the activities system of the nervous which always controls functions of body, causes drowsiness, lack of concentration, slowness in thinking, interpersonal impaired relationships and finally can lead to intoxication (**Hodge et al, 2001**).

Marijuana also was reported to have cause an unnatural thirst or hunger, uncontrolled mood swings, talkativeness, perception impairments, disturbed judgment, disorders in mind, a wellbeing feeling, euphoria and anxiety alleviates (**Rehn et al, 2001**). All in all, the dangers of the use of marijuana consists excessive aggression as combined with alcohol, accidents due to distorted perception, physical damage in the form of bronchial irritation, risk of lung cancer, chromosome damage, and ultimately brain damage and this is normally the first stage of addiction before drug abusers shift to hard drugs (**Rehn et al, 2001**).

Addition to above (UN-ODCCP, 2002) reports tried to explain that the effects of cocaine appear just immediately after only a single dose taken and can disappear just within a minute. Sometimes cocaine can make the consumer feels euphoric, energetic, talkative, and mentally alert especially to the sensations of sight, sound, and touch. Furthermore, cocaine can temporarily lead at lowering the need for food and sleep. Similarly, to that there are short terms physiological effects which are caused by cocaine consumption such as constricted blood vessels, dilated pupils, increase in body temperature, increase in heart rate as well as an increase in the blood pressure. Finally, the large amounts of cocaine may also lead to bizarre unreliable and violent sort of behaviours.

Conclusion

According to Eze and Omeje (1999), the theories of drug abuse would indicate that some people surely depend on certain drugs for their survival depending to the number of reasons. According to them the main emphasis of the theories was that people have their personal reasons as to why they depending on one type of the drug or the other. Drug consume cause various bad effects in



their life. Like harmful effect on physical health and mental health. In these points of view it may be stated that drugs and its addiction to the young generation, spatially college students may be the big obstacle in academic as well as social development. Most intuitively, drug and drug consumption may have some detrimental effects on pupils' cognitive abilities, for instance, by decreasing their ability to concentrate. Concerning the indirect channels, drug and drug consumption may for instance be responsible for shifting individuals' resources away from schooling. Additionally, it may undermine students' progress by making them less likely to attend classes or keep up with their studies. According to the Social Developmental Theory, it was suggested that drug use and other related deviant behaviors rise up from interactions with the primary socialization sources such as family, the school, and peer clusters, so this shows that students in our public schools are in a very risk of falling into drug abuse since their primary socialisation starts from schools and this can contribute to negative impacts towards their academic performance.

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