

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

This research work is on the effects of Drug Abuse among University undergraduates in Nigeria. It appears that not only the use of drugs that create problems but rather their misuse. In other words the widespread use of drugs has not only turned our attention to the dynamics of drug use and its determinants but also made it necessary to weigh the impact of this process on social institutions and social change in future generations.

Drug abuse according to Laver (1978) simply means the improper use of drugs to the degree that the consequences are defined as detrimental to the user and or the society. The World Health Organization (WHO) (2006) also defined drug abuse as a “state” of periodic or chronic intoxication, detrimental to the individual and to the society, produced by the repeated consumption of a drug (natural or synthetic).

Drug abuse patterns include all aspect of drug usage by the youths ranging from how much, how often and what sort of drugs, where who, with, what circumstances and so on. The analysis of contemporary social problem has consistently proved more and more controversial

because of the variables involve in their analysis, with the incidence of drug abuse, being of utmost concern to the abuser himself, his family, the government and the entire society in which he lives. This situation seems to have caused a lot of embarrassment to the government including most especially the damage done to the image of Nigerian abroad. It is obvious that custom officials in the United States of America and indeed the entire Nations of Europe subject the people of Nigeria traveling to their countries to a more thorough and embarrassing checks. This type of degrading and humiliating examination of Nigerians according to them is because they want to crack down on smugglers of which Nigerians are the chief suspects due to the hard drug trafficking posture exhibited by some greedy Nigerians.

Furthermore, Nigerian societies has defined some drugs as acceptable while others as not acceptable without reference to their effects on mental and physical wellbeing of t the of the users, for example, society considers the use of alcohol and nicotine as acceptable, hence those of them who take these drugs do so freely in public without fear of arrest or society stigma.

To the society as a whole, crime, promiscuity, armed robbery and other vices are all linked to drug abuse. Therefore this study is motivated by

the controversy that surrounds the effect of drug abuse among University undergraduates in Nigeria.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Drug abuse in Nigeria in the contemporary time has become one issue that cast a gloomy shadow to the entire Nigerian society especially among University undergraduates. The height of drug trafficking in Nigeria was witnessed in 1985 under the military regime. During this period, it was mostly the University undergraduates that were caught and the first to be executed for drug offences under the “special tribunal (Miscellaneous Offences) Degree No. 20 of 1984. However, the abuse of drugs is not only limited to the University undergraduates as alien phenomenon is to distort its significance.

Nevertheless, the usage of drug either by University undergraduates or other members of the larger society in all its ramifications appears to be a social problem. This problem is widely spread and it affect all and sundry. In other words, this wide spread use and abuse entice people from all walks of life and beyond the human destruction caused by drug dependence is the damage to traditional values and lifestyles. Studies have also shown that drug abuse wrecks individual, shatter families and weakens entire society with its burden of economic looses, health cost and increased lawlessness and crime.

Also, drugs seem to undermine the ability of University undergraduates to learn. Drug also appears to contradict our values of physical wellbeing. People experiment with drugs because they seem to hold the promise of fulfillment. But the fulfillment is generally elusive, greater and greater quantities are consumed and ultimately the person suffers both physical and psychological deterioration. The drug abuser also experience problems of interaction and this interactional problem is encountered both inside his immediate family and stress invariably is created in the family situation of drug abuse (Hoffman, 1990).

To add to this, drug abuse may entail a lot of social problems ranging from lateness to lectures, family neglect, deviance behaviours, involvement in crime etc (Earl 2000). In terms of economic cost, it includes the more money required to deal with the undesirable effects of the drug abuse, the less money for services and programmes that enhances the quality of life (Earl 2000).

One of the factors militating against the eradication of drug abuse among our University undergraduates is that our security agencies, such as the police force, National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies among others have not done enough to check this scourge. Another factor militating against the eradication of drug abuse among Nigerian University

undergraduates is the problem of corruption among the men and officials of these fore mentioned agencies.

To this end and judging from the problems outlined earlier, this research aims at ascertaining the effect of drug abuse among University undergraduates in Nigeria using the University of Calabar, Cross River State as a study area.

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The following research questions will guide the study.

1. What are the common drugs likely to be abused by undergraduate students in the contemporary Nigeria society?
2. What are the major reasons accountable for engagement of undergraduate students in drug abuse in Nigeria?
3. What are the likely implications for undergraduate's involvement in drug abuse?
4. What are the measures that can be used to eradicate drug abuse among University undergraduates in Nigeria?

### **1.4 MAJOR OBJECTIVE**

To determine the effect of drugs abused by undergraduates in Nigeria

1. To find out the drugs that is commonly abused by undergraduate students in Nigeria.

2. To find out the implications for undergraduates involvement on drug abuse.
3. To identify of this study also aims at looking at some of the measures aimed at eradicating the drug abuse problem among University undergraduates in Nigeria.
4. To ascertain the reasons why drugs are been abused by the University undergraduates in Nigeria.

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

There is a great need for this study as it entails what the result for the findings would be used for.

The results of the study should help in creating awareness in the society on the general effects of drug abuse on their health most especially the University undergraduates. It will make the youths to realize that excessive or even small intake of this item (drugs) has inhibitory effects on their brain.

The result of this of this study will be used in making the consumers to have a second thought before partaking in the act. This will go a long way in modeling their behavior which the general awareness has created.

The study will go a long way in reducing the numerous health problems encountered as a result of the misuse of drugs or the intake of hard drugs. The study will also help young researchers or writers to solve some problems of drug abuse, thereby ensuring good health of the University undergraduates or youths in general and social harmony in the society.

Finally, all the social ills in the society as a result of the effects of drug abuse among the University undergraduates in Nigeria will be drastically minimized.

## 1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

- (a) **Drug:** A drug is a chemical substance capable of altering the physical and psychological function of the body.
- (b) **Abuse:** This means the misuse of something. It can also be described as the illegal use of something.
- (c) **Drug Abuse:** This is the misuse of drugs. It could be defined as the illegal use of substance which interferes with the human behavior.
- (d) **Effects:** This could be defined as consequences. It is also the power to produce result.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 CONCEPT OF DRUG ABUSE

The term “drug abuse” refers to the use of a drug with such frequency that it causes physical or mental harm to the user or impairs social functioning. Although the term seems to imply that drug users abuse the drugs they use, infact, it is themselves or others they abuse by using drugs (Lexicon Universal Encyclopedia 1989:276).

Traditionally the term drug abuse refers to the use of any drug prohibited by law, regardless of whether it was actually harmful or not. This meant that any use of marijuana for example, even if it occurred only once in a while, would constitute abuse, while the same level of alcohol consumption would not. In view of the ambiguity of the term ‘abuse’, the United States National Commission Drug abuse stated in 1920 that “it has no functional ability and has become no more than a code word drug presently considered wrong and illegal (Lexicon Universal Encyclopedia 1989).

The drugs commonly abused include, cannabis, sativa (marijuana or Indian hemp), cocaine heroine, morphine, opium, tobacco and alcohol. The sale and consumption of these drugs has caused a lot of problems

in Nigeria society and in international communities. This is the reason why most of the drugs are prohibited by law and there are national and international agencies established for the purpose of monitoring and controlling illegal drug trade. In 1980, the Federal Government established National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to fight drug abuse and trafficking in the country. Since then, it has arrested many people involved in illicit drug activities and has seized various quantities of hard drugs. The former National Chairman of NDLEA, Alhaji Bello Latidgi stated in 2003 that his agency had seized more than 40million tons of cannabis, cocaine and heroine in that last one year. He also stated that a reasonable number of drug barons and traffickers were also arrested during the period and some of them had been successfully prosecuted and jailed.

## **2.2 COMMON DRUGS ABUSED BY UNDERGRADUATES IN NIGERIA**

According to World Health Organization (WHO 2002) the drugs commonly abused include cannabis sativa, (marijuana or Indian hemp), cocaine, heroine, morphine, opium, tobacco, alcohol etc. The sale and consumption of these drugs has caused a lot of problems in Nigerian society and in international community.

Alcohol belongs to the category of psychoactive drugs that depress and at the same time stimulate the functions of the central nervous system and the issue of alcohol use and abuse among undergraduates in Nigeria Universities and institutions of higher learning has been a great concern to all and sundry. The abuse of alcohol seems to make it addictive and the partakers are referred to as all who lies. It involves drinking to an extent which exceeds the norms of the society and which adversely affects the drinker's health, relationship with others and economic functioning. In other words, the victim finds himself drinking when he intends not to drink or drinking more than planned. It is the belief of WHO that, alcohol though legal in many countries can be an even bigger threat like cannabis, cocaine and heroine. It is probably the most vicious drug of all (Shearer 1980).

The cannabinoid drug firmly has been well known since ancient times. The drugs are produced from many varieties of cannabis sativa. The leaves and the flowering tops of the female plant secrete an amber – colour resin containing the chemical cannabinoid, cannabidiol, tetrahydrocannabinol which is believed to be the active substance causing the mood modification and behavior changes in the user (Jones 1999).

In the same vein, marijuana still remains the drug largely used by undergraduates and it is also the most controversial of all the popular

drugs used by undergraduates. It is derived from hemp. Another name for it is Harshish. Locally, marijuana has other names as “Igbo”, “Wewe” “gangh” etc. It is locally grown and processed. As noted, the use and abuse of marijuana among University undergraduates. The users smoke or eat the leaves of the marijuana plant to induce a general excitement on euphoria. Although not everyone respond to marijuana particularly the first time they try it, the desired effects are euphoria and a variety of other agreeable sensations such as increased sexual feelings and changes in temperature, sensations on the skin, distortions of time and space perception that are not pleasant and an enhancement of appetite. The total effect of marijuana experience last from three to five hours after which the user feels lightly drowsy and hungry (Fantino 2002). Some negative effects of marijuana are, loss of memory, excessive bravery (Can lead to accident) loss of emotional control.

Another form of drug that is commonly abused by our undergraduate is called Heroine. According to (Kinch 2005), this is derived from the grumming substance extracted from the opium poppy and it is powdery. Opium is prepared by boiling the gum opium and successfully filtering out the impurities. Depending on the process, opium can be produced as a paste, powder, ingranules or in solution. It is known by different names in the addiction world and has various slangs or names such as

Horse, Junk, Smack, Stuff tat, button, black stuff etc. According to (Kinch 2005), Heroin is either sniffed or injected and nasal use is called sniffing, subcutaneous injection, skin popping and intravenous injection. After a minute or two of intravenous injection of Heroin, the following occurs which some describe as similar to orgasm except that the sensation seems to be centered in the abdomen rather than in the genital region. The sensation is described as intensely pleasurable following. It is, the user feels fixed or gratified with no longer pain or sexual urges (Blim 1973). Users of heroin easily become psychologically and physically dependent on the drug. Heroin suppresses hunger, most users therefore suffer from malnutrition. Women who take heroin have the additional burden of possible complications and medical problems during child birth. Again, women who are addicted to heroin often give birth to children who are smaller than average, have serious infections and high mortality rates. Some of the children are born addicted and develop withdrawal symptoms shortly after birth.

Furthermore, cocaine is one of such drugs classified as stimulant. It is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant and like heroin, cocaine is a powdery substance usually white. Naturally potent stimulant cocaine has been found to be most addictive of all drugs. Cocaine may be sniffed

(smoked) or as a powder (snow) or injected, intravenously either alone or in combination with heroine. The later combination is known as “speed ball” and is the most common form of cocaine used (Weisman 2002). Usually taken by sniffing, the euphoria that follows is short lived which is why users take it at short intervals. Say every 10 minutes. Taking the drug at close intervals according to (Weisman 2002) causes hallucinations, confusions, loss of co-ordination, tremors and convulsive movement. Apart from that, an overdose can cause delirium, increase reflexes, violent and manic behavior, convulsions and death. Other effects include lung and heart damage, malnutrition and paranoia.

### **2.3 REASONS FOR DRUG ABUSE**

The question of the reason for drug abuse among undergraduate of Nigeria Universities or higher learning institutions has posed a question that seems hard. It is not impossible to offer an acceptable answers because the reasons vary from drug to drug and person to person. Some reasons are poor environmental and conditions, fear from minorities and other attempt to escape the power of “corporate state” peer pressure and pure pleasure (Gilbbins 1976).

However, the major reasons for abuse of drugs by our undergraduates may include the following amongst others:

(i) **PEER GROUP INFLUENCE:** The peer group is second only to the parents in socializing the child. Parents and peer group seem to extent almost equal importance by the time children are well grown up into adolescence. Thus, the peer group provides the developing child with a broad range of behaviours and cultural and sub-cultural values meanwhile a peer group is a group compose of individual who are equals (Morrish 1972). Accounts for why undergraduate take and abuse drugs, some may reason thus “if grown up take pills, use tobacco and get drunk, why should I not enjoy myself smoking marijuana or take drugs? They imagine that drugs are keys to enjoying life more fully. An individual in group which favours preponderance of definitions that favour the illegal or deviant behavior. Sine such groups also are likely to have access to supplies, there is a high probability that individual will experiment with drugs and ultimately become a drug abuser.

There being integrated into a group in which drug use is approved is one of the strongest factors leading youths into illegal drugs.

(ii) **THE NEED TO FEEL HIGH:** According to (Prof. Ekpo 2007), University undergraduates in Nigeria especially in Calabar abuse drugs to change or alter the way they feel “to feel happier

or better, to avoid pains stress or frustration”. They want to forget or to remember, to be accepted or be sociable sometimes to escape from burden or just to satisfy curiosity. However, in the long run, people who abuse drugs in the hope of solving one problem or the other run the risk of getting trapped in a spiral of increasing drug use that created new problems and finally leads to drugs dependence which worsens already worse situation.

- (iii) **SOCIAL STRUCTURAL INFLUENCE:** The particular factor is associated with relentless harshness of life. In this case, life itself is one big hell of hand ball to kick. Academic frustration, rivalry, poverty, family problem, inherent physical deformities, widening gap between the rich and the poor make life one long stretch of mental future.

Hence, to summon up courage to face such situations and the task ahead, “University undergraduates find solutions in smoking, drinking, drug taking of all sorts on the firm conviction that these drugs provide euphoria release, great spur and a monetary escape from reality because of this, taking drugs becomes a habit to face life.

- (iv) **THE CRAZE FOR EASY WEALTH:** Another reason often cored for undergraduates indulgence in drug abuse is that drug

abuse/trafficking is a quick and easy way to make money.

Trafficking of drugs has become a multi millionaire business.

(v) **THE MASS MEDIA:** Evidence abounds that children, youths and undergraduates who watch a lot of television programmes learn to rely on stereotypes of the various groups presented by the media. These children then transfer what they have learned from television to real life situations. This, if the stereotype was presented and always watched by a child favours drugs taking the child will imbibe the culture of drug taking.

(vi) **PERSONALITY FACTORS:** Finally, it appears that personality factor is another main factor responsible for the canker worm on Nigeria society. In this aspect, it is connected with distinctive personality traits associated with drug abuse. The “independent personality” is a major elements in profiles of drug addicts. In general, a drug abuser, that is a drug dependent person, has difficulty handling frustration, anxiety and depression.

## **2.4 IMPLICATIONS OF DRUG ABUSE**

Drug abuse seems to have become a prominent social problem in Nigeria especially among our undergraduate. According to (Nwaiwu 2002), drug abuse leads to serious health hazards for drug addicts. Drug abuse has adverse effects on the brain, kidney, liver, pancrease, heart

and lung, thereby making them vulnerable to disease (Nwaiwu 2002). It also leads to other physical complications such as hepatitis, hepatic failure, tuberculosis in relation to alcohol abuse, infection and emaciation (Adedeji, 2003).

Again, drug abuse may result to serious psychiatric implications, these include confusion, restlessness and sometimes serious abnormal behavior or outright madness. At least one out of the psychiatric cases is due to delirious effects of marijuana. Besides, statistics have shown that 70 percent of patients undergoing treatment for drug abuse in nation's psychiatric hospitals are undergraduates between the ages of 16 and 25 years. It may also lead to poor performance in school work and may ultimately result in school dropout. Apart from that, it leads to the development of aggressive behaviour and depression mood that may esteem. Adedeji (2003) observes that drug abuse may give rise to sudden mood swings, with unusual aggression and depression for no apparent reasons or warning interest in school, hobbies or friends.

## **2.5 SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG UNDERGRADUATES**

Parents and school authorities should advise the undergraduates to refrain from indulging in drug abuse.

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency should organize its workshop and seminars on drug free education in various secondary schools and institution of higher learning in the country.

The mass media should play a key role in highlighting the evil effects of drug abuse.

The curriculum for drug education should be developed and made to be taught at all level of the educational system.

Drug addicts should be produced with necessary counseling services and socially rehabilitation to enable them quit the ugly habit and rely into normal life.

## **2.6 REVIEW OF RELATED THEORIES**

### **1. STRUCTURAL STRAIN THEORY**

The functionalist perspective or deviance has been further elaborated by Robert Merton (1910-2003). Merton's structural strain theory traces the origins of deviance to the tension caused by the gap between cultural goals and the means people have to achieve these goals. In society, culture establishes goals for people, social structures provide or fail to provide the means for people to achieve these goals.

According to this sociologist, Merton poor people are most likely to experience the same goals and values of the rest of societies but have blocked opportunities for success; (Merton 1978). Structural strain theory helps explain between unemployment and crime pattern than blaming poor and unemployed criminals for not having values of the middle class, structural strain theory explains risk involved in such action (Siegel 1998).

## **2. DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION – SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY**

This theory was propounded by an influential early American Sociologist Edwin Sutherland in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He argued that all behaviour is a result of socialization through interaction. That is, how we act depends on how those around us desire us to act. How much we deviate from or conform to the norms depends on difference (or differentials) in whom we associate with.

## **3. FUNCTIONARY THEORY OF DEVIANCE**

According to this approach, deviance, crime, drug abuse etc are related to the society. Theorists have view deviance, crime, drug abuse and other allied crimes as related to the society. Society itself generated that they were not merely individual acts of anti-social behaviour. Having generated deviance, society operated in such ways as to reduce, not

eliminate deviance and crime because they also had positive functions to the society (Jack 1973).

Against this background, people use drug in the society even to the level of abuse or addiction because the society has designated certain types of drug as socially acceptable. They are regarded as legal drugs and others as illegal. Such socially accepted drugs include alcohol and cigarettes which the user, use any how in the society on account of the favourable treatment accorded to them by the society.

## **2.7 THEORETICAL FRAME WORK**

### **STRUCTURAL STRAIN THEORY**

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poor and unemployed criminals for not having values of the middle class, structural strain theory explains risk involved in such action (Siegel 1998).

## **2.8 STUDY HYPOTHESIS**

The study was guided by the following hypothesis

- (1) Incidence of drug abuse among undergraduates in University of Calabar is likely to be higher than other social vices on the institution.
- (2) There is a positive relationship between peer group influence and drug abuse among undergraduate students in University of Calabar.
- (3) Undergraduates who engage in drug abuse are likely to experience some health hazards.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The survey design will be adopted in this study. According to Bolton (1992), a survey design is used to access and predict the views, reactions or standings of a large number of people on a limited topic like the effect of drug abuse on Nigeria University undergraduates. Under survey design, the researcher develops a list of questions and present them in a standard way to each participant typically using either the interview or questionnaire.

#### **3.2 STUDY AREA**

The area of study is the University of Calabar, Cross River State. The University of Calabar is located in the city of Calabar the capital of Cross River State. The University of Calabar occupies a 17 hectare of land on the eastern side of the city of Calabar, between the great qua River and Calabar River. It was found in 1975.

#### **3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

The population of the study is made up of the students of the University of Calabar, Cross River State. The present population of the student is about 40,645.

### **3.4 SAMPLE SIZE**

A total number of 150 respondents will be used for this study and it will be made up of the student of the University of Calabar.

### **3.5 SAMPLE TECHNIQUE**

A simple random sampling procedure was adopted in choosing the population of the study as it involves a fairly large community of the University of Calabar which is the area under the research study, hence indicates a heterogeneous population.

### **3.6 INSTRUMENTS OF DATA COLLECTION**

Questionnaire and indebt interview guide was used for data collection. The questionnaire contains two sections. The section 'A' of the questionnaire contains items which were designed to give personal information about the respondent. The section 'B' of the questionnaire have items on how drug abuse can be associated with youthfulness and whether it is common among male undergraduates than female.

### **3.7 METHOD OF ANALYSIS**

The data here will be analyzed using descriptive and (SPSS) statistical packages for the social science, via tables, frequency and percentage etc.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.1 PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

A comprehensive questionnaire was prepared and administered to 150 students of the University of Calabar. The researcher distributed a total number of 150 questionnaires and 100 out of 150 questionnaires were returned. Therefore I will base my analysis on 100 that were returned. The remaining 50 questionnaires were wrongly filled and mutilated and therefore rejected.

**Table 1: Shows that the distribution and return of the questionnaire administered to students.**

#### 4.1 DISTRIBUTION/RETURN RATE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

**Table 1**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>Not Returned</b>
Students	150	100	50
Total	150	100	50

The above table shows that out of 150 questionnaires distributed to the students of the University of Calabar, 100 was filled and returned and 50 was not returned.

## **PART 1 (SECTION A)**

### **4.1.1 MARITAL STATUS**

**Table 2: Distribution of the marital status of the respondents**

<b>Options</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married	25	25
Single	75	75
Total	100	100

The above table shows that 25 (25%) of the respondents were married, 75 (75%) of the respondents were single.

### **4.1.2 AGE**

**Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
15 – 25	40	40
26 – 35	30	30
36 – 45	15	15
46 – 55	10	10
56 – Above	5	5
Total	100	100

The above shows the age distribution of respondents out of 100 respondents, 40 were within the ages of 26 – 35 years, 30 were within the ages of 36 – 45 years, 15 between the ages of 46 – 55 years and 5 between the ages of 56 and above.

#### 4.1.3 SEX

**Table 4: The Sex Distribution of the Respondents**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	60	60
Female	40	40
Total	100	100

The table above shows that sex distribution of the respondents. The highest percentage 60 (60%) was recorded for the male respondents and the lowest percentage 40 (40%) was recorded for the female respondents. This means that more female respondents were selected for the sample.

#### 4.1.4 Table 5: Distribution of Respondents according to their level of education

Level of Education	No of Respondents	Percentage
Pre-degree	15	15
Diploma/NCE	30	30
Degree	45	45
Others	10	10
Total	100	100

The above table shows the distribution of respondents level of education. It was deduced from the above table that the highest percentage 45 (45%) were respondents undergoing the Degree programme and 30 (30%) were those undergoing Diploma/NCE programme and 15 (15%) were those undergoing the pre-degree programme and others 10%.

#### 4.1.5 Table 6: Distribution of the Respondents according to their Faculty

Faculty	No of Respondents	Percentage
Law	10	10
Medical College	20	20

Arts/Humanities	25	25
Social Sciences	15	15
Education	5	5
Management	25	25
Total	100	100

The above 6 shows that 25 (25%) of the respondents were from the faculty of management science and another 25 (25%) from the faculty of Arts/Humanities, and 20 (20%) from the medical college and 15 (15%) from the faculty of social sciences, 10 (10%) from the faculty of law and 5 (5%) from the faculty of education.

#### 4.1.6 Table 7: Religion

Religion	No of Respondents	Percentage
Christianity	30	35
Islamic	45	30
African Traditional Worshiper	15	20
Others	10	15
Others	100	100

The information on table 7 shows the frequency distribution of respondents according to their religious groups. The data indicates that the highest percentage 45 (45%) were Muslims, 30 (30%) are Christians, 15 (15%) are African traditional worshipers while the last category 10 (10%) belong to none of the religion.

#### 4.1.7 Table 8: Residence

<b>Residence</b>	<b>No of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Hostel	60	60
Off Campus	40	40
Total	100	100

The above table shows that the highest percentage respondent as 60 (60%) live in the hostel while 40 (40%) live off campus.

## 4.2 SECTION B – SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE RESEARCH

**QUESTION 1:** What drug is mostly abused by University undergraduates

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Stimulant	10	10
Alcohol	40	40

Hemp	30	30
Analesics	15	15
Sedatives	5	5
Total	100	100

The table above shows the type of drug that is mostly abused by the undergraduates. The table shows that a greater percentage 40 (40%) of respondents agree that alcohol is the drug that is mostly abused by University undergraduates, while 30 (30%) Hemp, Analseics 15 (15%), Stimulant 10 (10%) and the lowest percentage 5 (5%) agree that sedative is the drug mostly abused by undergraduates.

**QUESTION 2:** Why do you think that youths abuse drugs?

**Table 10: Distribution of Respondents according to their knowledge of why youths abuse drugs**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
To get high	50	50
To fit into group	35	35
Don't know	15	15
Total	100	100

In the table above shows the greater percentage of respondents 50 (50%) indicated that youths abuse drugs to get high, 35 (35%) indicated that they abuse the drugs to fit into group and the lowest percentage 15 (15%) indicated that they don't know why youths abuse drugs.

**QUESTION 3:** Is drug abuse associated with undergraduates only?

**Table 11**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	30	30
No	60	60
Don't know	10	10
Total	100	100

The above table shows that 60 (60%) percent of the respondents indicated that drug abuse is not only associated with undergraduates while 30 (30%) agreed that it is only associated with undergraduates while the lowest percentage 10 (10%) indicated that they don't know.

**QUESTION 4:** What are the major reasons why students engaging in Drug Abuse?

**Table 12: Distribution of reasons why students engage in Drug Abuse**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
For leisure	25	25
To gain power	15	15
To perform well	5	5
All of the above	45	45
Total	100	100

The above table answers the question on the major reasons why students engage in drug. The result indicated that 45 (45%) of the respondents believed that it is due to Academic pestering for leisure, to gain power and to perform well while 25 (25%) believed that its due to academic problem, 15 (15%) indicated that its for leisure, 10 (10%) indicated that its to gain power while 5 (5%) believed that its to enable them perform well in academics.

**QUESTION 5:** Do you take drugs more in the midst of friends or when alone?

**Table 13: Distribution on when youths take drugs most.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Alone	25	25
With friends	65	65
Don't know	10	10
Total	100	100

The above table shows the responses on whether the respondents take drugs when alone or with friends. 65 (65%) indicated that they take drugs when with friends, 25 (25%) indicated that they take drugs when alone while 10 (10%) indicated that they don't know this may mean that they **don't take drugs at all.**

**QUESTION 6:** What do you think is the effect of drug abuse among undergraduates?

**Table 14: Distribution of the effect of Drug Abuse among undergraduates**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Beneficial	30	40
Damaging	10	60
Total	100	100

The table above shows the responses on the effect of drug abuse among undergraduates, 10 (10%) indicated that the effect is damaging while 30 (30%) of respondents indicated that the effect is beneficial.

**QUESTION 7:** Does your association with others influence you to Abuse Drugs?

**Table 15: Distribution on whether association with others influence your to take drugs.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	60	60
No	40	40
Total	100	100

The above table shows distribution of respondents on whether association with others influence them to take drugs. 60 (60%) indicated yes which means their association with others influence them take drugs and 40 (40%) of respondents indicated (No) that their association with others does not influence them to take drugs.

**QUESTION 8:** Do you think drug habits of undergraduates is associated with drug habit of their parents.

**Table 16: Distribution on whether drug habits of undergraduates is associated with that of their parents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	35	35
No	50	50
Don't know	15	15
Total	100	100

The above table shows the distribution of respondents on whether undergraduates drugs habit is associated with that of their parent, 50 (50%) indicated No, 35 (35%) indicated Yes while 15 (15%) indicated don't know.

**QUESTION 9:** What are the ways in which drug abuse could be reduced among University undergraduates in Nigeria?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Counseling	50	50
Imprisonment of offenders	15	15
Expulsion	30	30
All of the above	5	5
Total	100	100

The above table shows the response on the ways in which drug abuse could be reduced among University undergraduates 50 (50%) indicated that it could be reduced by counseling, 30 (30%) indicated that it could be reduced by expulsion, that is expelling the students involve; 15 (15%) indicated that it can be reduced by imprisonment of the offender while 5 (5%) indicated that All of the above should be used in reducing drug abuse among University undergraduates.

#### 4.3 TEST OF HYPOTHESIS

The study was guided by the following hypothesis.

##### TEST OF HYPOTHESIS ONE

The incidence of drug abuse among undergraduates in University of Calabar is likely to be higher than other social vices.

**Table 1: Showing the observed and expected distribution for testing the above hypothesis**

No	Observed	Expected
Yes	138	97.0
No	56	97.0
Total	194	

DF = 1,  $P \leq 0.05$ ,  $X^2 = 34.660$ , Significant level = 0.000

The hypothesis was tested with Chi Square ( $X^2$ ) statistics. The obtained Chi Square value is 34.660 and was tested at  $P \leq 0.05$  level of significance. Since  $P \leq 0.05$ , then the result is significant, we then reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis, which stated that the incidence of drug abuse among undergraduate in University of Calabar is likely to be higher than other social vices in the institution.

### TEST OF HYPOTHESIS TWO

There is a positive relationship between peer group influence and drug abuse among undergraduate students in University of Calabar.

**Table 2: Showing the observed and expected for testing the above hypothesis.**

No	Observed	Expected
Yes	123	97.0
No	71	97.0
Total	194	

DF = 1,  $P \leq 0.05$ ,  $X^2 = 13.938$ , Significant level = 0.000

The hypothesis was tested with Chi Square ( $X^2$ ) statistics. The obtained Chi Square value is 13.938 and was tested at  $P \leq 0.5$  level of significance. Since  $P \leq 0.5$ , then the result is significant, we the reject the

null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis, which state that there is a positive relationship between peer group influence and drug abuse among undergraduate students in University of Calabar.

### TEST OF HYPOTHESIS THREE

Undergraduates who engage in drug abuse are likely to experience some health hazards.

**Table 3: Showing the observed and expected for testing the above hypothesis.**

No	Observed	Expected
Yes	138	97.0
No	56	97.0
Total	194	

DF = 1,  $P \leq 0.05$ ,  $X^2 = 34.660$  , Significant level = 0.000

The hypothesis was tested with Chi Square ( $X^2$ ) statistics. The obtained Chi Square value is 34.660 and was tested at  $P \leq 0.05$  level of significance. Since  $P \leq 0.05$ , then the result is significant, we then reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis which stated that undergraduates who engage in drug abuse are likely to experience some health hazards.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 SUMMARY

Drug abuse constitutes one of the major social problems in Nigeria because of the hazardous effect on the health of people and also psychologically, physically, socially, educationally etc. The problem appears to be endemic in Nigeria society to the extent that scholars, professionals, social workers, academicians, psychologists, sociologists have been trying to find solutions to the problem.

This research is the outcome of unsubstantiated statements and generally held beliefs concerning the issue or incidence of drug abuse among Nigeria University undergraduates which is held by various people, institutions and organization in the society such beliefs and opinions include those of religion and political leaders, parents, the mass and print media etc which most times, portray undergraduates as heavily and almost solely dependent on drug use especially these days. This study was therefore embarked upon so as to examine empirically this thorny and controversial issues of drug abuse among Nigeria University undergraduates, a study of the University of Calabar, Cross River State.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

In line with the finding of the study and the discussion, the researcher makes the following conclusions. Drug abuse is a social problem basically associated with young people. These young people involve themselves in taking hard drugs and excessive taking of some drugs which may alter the body system or may cause damage to the health. Drug abuse is very common among undergraduates, they take drugs, to get high or to make them feel big or for them to just feel among or fit into the environment while some take this drugs through the influence of friends or other people around them. Drug is mostly abused by male undergraduates than female.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATION**

The problem of drug abuse among Nigeria University undergraduates as the study has revealed is one thing that does nobody or any nation any good. That being the case, the questions, the arises, what then can be done to this thorny issue of drug use and abuse among our youths.

Perhaps, the following suggestions might be of help to policy makers administrators in this very fight against use and abuse of drugs among undergraduates. An idle mind, they say is the devil's workshop, undergraduates have to be kept busy realizing their potentials in

rewarding and interesting manner. Otherwise their potentials or energies which is at a peak in these formalize years may be vented through mischievous channels like drug taking which harm both society and the individual.

Greater availability of good educational activities, material and leadership opportunities for youths are necessary to keep the youths happily busy. This would help a lot towards solving the drug abuse problem. Government should set up rehabilitation centres to aid victims of drug abuse.

Further to this, there is also the need for agency in combating the social disintegration by way of public awareness and education. Community organizations and health and social agencies must identify high-risk groups and educate the public about the dangers of drug use, emphasizing vital importance of drug free life.

A social environment should be created which would discourage drug abuse, with the schools and Universities educating undergraduates on the dangers of drug abuse and the value of life. The schools and Universities should formulate policies to prevent drug abuse and should also hold seminars for parents and families to alert them early to the symptoms of drug abuse in their children.

Pamphlets and badges should be distributed to schools, colleges and universities. Also entertainment and sport celebrities should also deglamorise drug abuse to add to this, parents also should strive to be showing examples to their children and they should also be wary of the company their kids keep.

Furthermore, legislation should be enacted to penalize haulage companies especially transporters who do not implement and enforce procedure to prevent misuse of their facilities by drug traffickers. Also, as a measure to combat drug abuse and trafficking, the penalty for drug peddling should be made commensurate with the peddlers profits because profits made by drug pushers far exceed the risk, and that is why many people are going into the business.

#### **5.4 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING**

In view of the wide scope of this study, the findings of the study, limitations, the researcher wish to suggest the following areas worthy of further investigations.

- a) The consequences of Drug Abuse in Nigeria
- b) The effects of Drug Abuse on undergraduates academic achievement
- c) The major causes of Drug Abuse among Nigeria University Undergraduates.

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**APPENDIX**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Department of Sociology  
Caritas University  
Amorji-Nike  
Enugu State.  
9<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

Dear Respondent,

I am a final year student of the Department of Sociology Caritas University Enugu. I am carrying out a research work on the effect of Drug Abuse among University undergraduates in Nigeria. A study of the University of Calabar. I hope that you will be frank and honest in your response. Your answers will be treated in absolute confidentiality and will be used for academic purposes only

Thanks for your co-operation. Please tick or fill.

Yours faithfully,

**Egbe Margaret**

**SECTION A****PERSONAL DATA****PLEASE TICK [  ] WHERE APPLICABLE**

(1) Marital Status: [  ] Married [  ]

(2) Age: (a) 15 – 25 [  ] (b) 26 – 35 [  ] (c) 36 – 45 [  ]  
(d) 46 – 55 [  ] (e) 56 – Above [  ]

(3) Sex: (a) Male [  ] (b) Female [  ]

(4) Level of Education: (a) Pre-degree [  ] (b) Diploma/NCE [  ]  
(c) Degree [  ] (d) Others (specify)

(5) Faculty: (a) Social Science [  ] (b) Medical College [  ]  
(c) Education [  ] (d) Management [  ] (e) Arts/Humanities [  ]

(6) Religion: (a) Christianity [  ] (b) Islamic [  ] (c) African  
Traditional Worshiper [  ] (d) Others (specify)

(7) Resident: (a) Hostel [  ] (b) Off campus [  ]

## SECTION B

### SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE RESEARCH

(8) What drug is mostly abused by University undergraduates?

- a) Stimulants [ ] (b) Alcohol [ ] (c) Hemp [ ] (d) Analscics [ ]  
(e) Sedatives [ ]

(9) Why do you think that youths abuse drugs?

- a) To get high [ ] (b) to fit into the group [ ] (c) Don't know [ ]

(10) Is drug abuse associated with undergraduate only?

- a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ] (c) Don't know [ ]

(11) What are the major factors or reasons why students engage in drug abuse?

- a) Academic problem [ ] (b) for Leisure [ ] (c) To gain power [ ]  
(d) To perform well [ ] (e) All of the Above [ ]

(12) Do you take drugs more in the midst of friends or when alone?

- a) Alone [ ] (b) With friends [ ] (c) Don't know [ ]

(13) What do you think is the effect of drug abuse among undergraduates?

- a) Beneficial [ ] (b) Damaging [ ]

(14) Does your association with others influence you to take drugs?

- a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ]

(15) Do you think drug habits of undergraduates associated with drug habits of their parents?

a) Yes [ ] (b) No [ ] (c) Don't know [ ]

(16) What are the ways in which drug abuse could be reduced among University undergraduates in Nigeria?

a) Counseling [ ] (b) Imprisonment of offenders [ ] (c) Expulsion [ ] (d) All of the Above [ ]