

Economic Implications of Drug Abuse among the Youths

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Abstract

Over the years, various government and communities has frown on the new form of menace that has bedevil the society, and is eating deep into the productivity sector of the economic as its directly affect the youths, leaving the labor market vacuum of labor force simply because the youth have indulge in diverse kind of drug abuse, that have made them insane and unproductively members of the society, hence this review analyzes the economic implications of drug abuse on the youth and the economic, and the need for strict measures to be taken to mitigate the menace, there will come a time, where the working age group will be scarce in the labor market.

Keywords: Economic implication and Drug Abuse

Introduction

Drug abuse is the excessive, maladaptive or addictive use of drugs for no medical purpose. It also defines a stage, emotional and sometimes physical, characterized by compulsion to take drugs on a constant basis in order to experience its mental effects. Drugs give rest to dependents both physical and psychological. Psychological dependence gives rest to mental, emotional, biological or physical, social and economic instability. The effects of drug abuse on an individual therefore, from the basis for its cumulative effects on the society. The dangers invariably affects the patterns of consumption, the distribution of income and wealth, the way in which people behave (both in terms of purchase decision and the way in which they choose to spend their time) and the overall quality of life

The emerging trend of drug abuse leading to drug addiction in our society is so alarming and has gone beyond physical manifestation to the level of life threatening, capable of wiping away human existence if not properly checked (Brown, and Kreft, 1998)

Youths in any society occupying a delicate and sensitive position with the population structure for several reasons. The Nigerian law for example recognizes that an individual between the age of seven (7) is incapable of committing a crime and an individual between seven (7) and twelve (12) years should be able to know what he ought not to do. That is if it can be proved he does not know, between the age of twelve and seventeen a person is regarded as a juvenile and while he may be held responsible for his acts or omission he or she is treated especially under the law by the children and young person acts. (Banwell, and Young, 1993). Statistics have shown that drug barons prefer recruiting their traffickers from the age of fifteen to thirty-five (15-35) years, most of whom are either unskilled, unschooled or students or the unemployed. There are several factors which influence the abuse of drugs among the youths. The major areas are peer pressure, weak parental control, child abuse, limitation stress, truancy among students (Brown, and Kreft, 1998)

Drug abuse in the resent times has become a problem that has no recognition of his personality or geographical demarcation. It affects all aspect of human society. Drug abuse has also become a societal phenomenon in recent times and it is today used in various societies. For example, in contemporary Nigeria societies, the person whose drug taken is most likely to be identified as abuse is the one who is found to be taking illicit drugs. It however, appeal that control of drugs have proved abortive, despite the fact that various measures, program and campaigns has been launched by various societies against drug abuses and its related program

The industrialization and development of many societies have lead to the achievement of scientific and technological height and thus led to numerous channels which affect the socio-economic and cultural values of these societies. We can therefore see why various drugs have progressively been manufactured and identified with time to suit and meet the demands of those individuals using them in the society. Unfortunately, it is young people on whom the future of this country lies, that are mostly involved in anti-social behaviors such as drug abuse

The study observed that a lot of young people take pride in the abuse of drugs to their own detriment. They use drugs such as cocaine, nicotine, marijuana, tobacco, alcohol, amphetamine derivatives and even as far as sniffing glue and so on to feel high and enhance social performance.

The need to control the supply and reduce the demand for narcotic drugs in Nigeria led to the establishment of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in January, 1990 by the Babangida Administration. This is due to the fact that the issue of drug abuse has been a major concern to the federal government and state government alike. However, this work proves to give an insight to this problem and how government can eradicate it from their area. This will enhance a better social life on the part of the young person and the society in general by engaging on economic activities to increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as well as Gross National Product (GNP). Drug makes people sick when abused and sick nation must necessarily be a poor one

because of the lack of labor force the fact that they have become insane as a result of drug abuse. This implies that at their period of insaneness they are an economic wasted to the nation and the world at large.

Drug Abuse:

Drug is said to be abused when they are used in manner that deviate from medically approved or socially acceptable pattern with the society. The main purpose of the usage should be for curing illness at a description by data. Any contrary usage is drug abuse which has a negative result.

Drug Abuse has been found to be a factor creating major health and socio-economic problems throughout the world. Research has found that in 1981, three to six million (3-6m) out of the population of Nigerians could be classified as drug abusers. Most of who are youths (kalunda, 1981). Today, the figure and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth as well as the society are regarded as problematic.

The drug abuse problem among youths is a global plague, affecting both developed and developing nations worldwide. It is a problem that affects virtually every aspect of nations, political, social and economic life. Over the pass till now, there has been a lot of global effort in combating the social malady.

Globally, Cannabis is the most commonly used the united nation international drug control programme have estimated number of cannabis users worldwide to be 141billion people especially youths (UN Rep 1997). Reported rates of cannabis users are highest in some developed countries, especially in USA and Canada. National household survey indicated that approximately one third the adult youth population has tried cannabis (Blaze-Temple, and Lo,1992). Cocaine use f=has also become popular among the youth group in North and South America in the 1980 (Arnett, 1992).

In conclusion, a number of drug abusers commonly for therapeutic efficacy in health care is also being abused all over the world, especially by the youths. These include barbiturate benzodiazepam, amphetamine tabs, and stimulants as (ATS) and other sedative and stimulant drugs, (Brown, and Kreft,1998).

Drugs have different effect on the body. These effects may be mild or serious. Self-medication as more deadly a result of poor education, poverty among other reasons leads many to drug abuse addiction especially in Nigeria. Beck, (1998 explained that the main dangers of drugs is that either taken an under dose or overdose which has site effects on the individual.

Several types of drugs are susceptible to abuse by youths. These drugs range from most and less expensive such as cigarettes and alcohol too expensive and such as cocaine heroin

LABOUR MARKET

The nominal market in which workers find paying work, employers find willing workers, and wage rates are determined. Labor markets may be local or national (even international) in their scope and are made up of smaller, interacting labor markets for different qualifications, skills, and geographical locations. They depend on exchange of information between employers and job seekers about wage rates, conditions of employment, level of competition, and job.

THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS ON THE LABOR MARKET

Youths under the influence of drugs tend to be unproductive workers, beside absenteeism at work place and lack of commitment and work performance of such person is always very poor and the percentage of dependents on the economy increases. Some also engage in related vices of the drug trafficking which seriously affects the nation's development and render the labor market saturated with unwanted or not qualify labor force, which in turn affects foreign investment. Drug is one way of not meeting and solving the problems of life. When people do not solve their problems, society will work less well.

Alcohol and drugs can make people behave in an unsafe, irresponsible, and aggressive way, and are therefore forbidden in combination with driving motor-cars, many prescription drugs cause a mental cloudiness; the person may seem to be slow at answering questions or performing tasks.

Botvin, (1995). the involvement of Nigerian youths in drug trafficking and or Narco crimes impairs Nigeria's image both home and abroad, such person constitute menace to the society and become a social deviant and economically dependent rendering the labor market vacant.

However, drugs make people sick when abused and a sick nation must necessary be a poor one. Since the period of sickness will be wasted economically, politically and socially too. Let us remember that a healthy nation is a wealthy one.

Having analyzed the problems of drug abuse and its effects on the nation, one can conclude that a nation full of drug abusers is a nation set for destruction and without labor force to work for the economic development of the nation. Since the youths are future leaders of any nation, problem of youths should become problem of all and the welfare of the youths should be the welfare of al as they constitute the labor strength for the nation that work hard for economic development of the nation. A drug free society is a society with viable workforce.

The social and economic costs related to youth substance abuse are high. They result from the financial losses and distress suffered by alcohol- and drug-related crime victims, increased burdens for the support of adolescents and young adults who are not able to become self-supporting, and greater demands for medical and other treatment services for these youth (Adlaf, and Bondy,1996).

THE WAY FORWARD OUT THE YOUTHFUL DRUG ABUSE MENACE

Working age of every country determine the extent of the economic development of the country and youth in every society constituted the working force of the nation, hence society , family school and worship centre are expected to mentor ,monitor, train and develop the capacity of the youth against the usage of tomorrow, this can start by building a positive values system from the immediate home, were father and mother are request to train the child to be a useful and better member of the society, when responsibilities of children are handed over to school by parents, the children remains vulnerable to peers inducement and other vices that bedevil the society, youth can indulge in the practices of drug abuse when they are left at the fiat of their peers, this can be demonstrated by the fact that youth often disrespect their teacher because they are uncultured by the parental values, when parent enthroned good culture on the child the school has less work to do on the youth and the society will also benefit from the productivity of the youth well train by parent, the youth will be useful to himself and society. While we outcry the havoc caused by drug abuse and it implication on the economic activities particularly eroding the labor force who are suppose to work for the productive sector has turn to be insane as a result of drug abuse that should not only be blame on the youth but the family, worship centre ,schools and the society . hence the need to combat crime of drug abuse is holistic, both the system must be at work in order to achieve the desire goals of making the youth drug free and designing a development of economic of a given society because no society can excel economically without youthful contributions.

CONCLUSION

The society is the system where all players that form the society are expected to have a sense of synergy in the attainment of goals, every role must be play according to the rule of the game, the extent to which this game are play determine the synergy, the society will collectively strategizes to fight drug abuse among the youth, is not an individual fight but a societal fight any exclusion on the process of cleansing the society of the drug will amount to creating a loophole. Hence a synergy approach to fighting youthful drug abuse. then the society will be free of drug addicts.

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