

ASSESSING THE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF UNDERGRADUATES INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE USING INCOMPLETE DISCLOSURE OF PURPOSE

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Abstract

Previous studies on the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse have been faulted based on sample and method of data collection; therefore, this study, through an incomplete disclosure of purpose (deception) in data collection, examined the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in Southwest Nigeria. This study adopted a quantitative descriptive design, sampling 947 undergraduates involved in drug abuse through snowball and accidental techniques. Data were collected through an adapted two-section social participation self-reporting scale with a reliability coefficient of 0.91. These data were analysed using Percentage, Analysis of Variance, and t-test statistics at a 0.05 significance level. The findings revealed the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse to be average; there was no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on academic level, university type, gender and residence. The study concluded that the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse was average, contrary to the existing argument which opines a low social disposition. This implies that other studies which reported their absolutely poor social participation need to be given a second look, hoping that stakeholders have not reported based on stigmatisation and labelling. The study recommended that undergraduates involved in drug abuse should not be considered as a total social noncompliant and should be more encouraged to get involved in more social activities, such as campaigns against drug abuse. This will possibly be a means of assisting them out of the menace.

Keywords: Social Participation, Behaviour, Drug abuse, Undergraduates, University, incomplete-disclosure-of-purpose, deception

Introduction

There are prevailing controversies around the perceived social life of undergraduates involved in drug abuse, which is evident in real-life subjective conversations. While certain individuals argue that it is doubtful that undergraduates involved in drug abuse will perform optimally in the indices that constitute social participation, others uphold that their involvement in drug abuse does not imply their total non-compliance with social expectations and relationships. In other words, while some

suggest that undergraduates involved in drug abuse have poor relationships with their family, friends, and immediate neighbourhood, others contradict this view, believing that not all such individuals exhibit negative attitudes towards social dynamics, including environmental sanitation, participation in religious worship, leisure and sports, provision of neighbourhood security, and involvement in various volunteer organisations or groups.

The contradicting positions can be criticised because the oral discussions may have been highly subjective, lacking empirical principles, and therefore unacademic and unreliable. However, it is important to explore the empirical perspectives surrounding this phenomenon. Dauda (2011) revealed that drug abuse always brings about poor social participation through problems which are family-related, social loneliness/isolation and a faulty style of living. This is further supported by Bawa (2015), whose study found that substance abuse discourages healthy social relationships. It was observed that as a result of such practices, interviewees experience a deficiency in cordial relationships and respect from other people, such as friends and family members. Furthermore, some participants reported that as a result of the practice, they now suffer isolation from family, as the majority of them are not carried along in family decision-making.

Also, it was observed that sponsors now opt out of the payment of the school fees of those involved in substance abuse. Another individual reported in the study that as a result of participation in substance abuse, it has prevented from marrying at will. Every attempt to propose marriage to the opposite sex always fails, as nobody is willing to get married to such an individual. Also, another respondent reported that it has encouraged him to get involved in the development of various negative and antisocial attitudes, such as violence and stealing of valuables and properties, among others (Bawa, 2015).

Further, Umar, Ismail, and Mukthar (2016) showed that 65% of the participants agreed, while 35% disagreed, that drug abuse has social consequences of disrespect towards family members and neighbours. The same study reported that 50% agreed and 50% disagreed that drug abuse causes lawlessness among users. Okafor (2020) equally found that respondents perceived that youths involved in drug abuse suffer social deficiency, evident in poor relationships with people (social isolation) and higher chances and potential of committing crimes and violence. The findings by Ofueba et al. (2020)

further revealed that drug abuse has negative social consequences, which include the expression of violence and improper decision-making. This is believed to always affect others, which is evidence of poor social participation.

Dauda (2011) advanced the scope of the conversation as it was revealed that there was no significant difference in the social experience of all drug users based on gender. It means that male and female drug abusers have the same social life pattern. Also, Ekpenyong and Aakpege (2014), in a survey, revealed that there is a positive correlation between alcohol consumption patterns and the ability of undergraduates to participate in risky behaviours such as gambling, cult problems, suicide attempts, property damage, rape and other criminal and antisocial acts. Although the findings revealed gender differences between males and females as regards the relationship between alcohol consumption/perception and risky behaviour potentials. Beyond gender, Joseph et al. (2019) equally discovered that the case of undergraduates in private universities might not be different. This is because 10% of the sampled participants (from private universities) confirmed that their involvement in drug abuse often put them in one trouble or another. This invariably reduces their social activeness as compared to those not involved in the social menace. A similar study by Omolola, Goodluck and Taye (2021) on southwest private university students revealed that social consequences of drug abuse entail an increase in criminal potencies, rape, kidnapping, cultism, vandalism of public properties and robbery, among others.

Despite being empirical, there are issues of concern centred around methodology. There are concerns around participants' bias and labelling, prejudice, stigmatisation and typing, among others. This is because a majority of previously stated studies on the social life of undergraduates involved in drug abuse were conducted by sampling stakeholders. Studies which sampled teachers, parents, other students and others on their perception concerning the holistic social disposition of undergraduates involved in drug abuse can be critically faulted. This is on the basis that the perception of stakeholders might not reflect the exact state of the phenomenon of concern. Their perception could have been inspired by their subjective preconceived position, leading to prejudice, stigmatisation and typing

and, by extension, an error in generalisation and conclusion, especially as it concerns issues around deviants (Khalid et. al. 2020).

Having faulted the validity and reliability of the findings of previous empirical studies, which examined the social life of undergraduates involved in drug abuse through surveys from the perception of stakeholders, this could be the area of strength for studies which examined the same phenomenon by directly sampling the participants involved and not through stakeholders. In other words, studies which sampled individuals involved in the menace (undergraduates and youth taking drugs) themselves might reflect the actual nature of their social life and be void of prejudice and stigmatisation (Napper et al. 2010). Also, the validity of findings from studies conducted by sampling the undergraduates themselves (involved in drug abuse) cannot be said to be absolute. This is because there are circumstances where participants pretend and provide researchers with false data/information, especially in research in the field of social and behavioural sciences. This is one of the justifications for the use of incomplete disclosure of purpose, which is aimed at gathering data in their actual and true form from participants without letting the participants know, in order to secure reliable data (Devine et. al. 2020).

As the name implies, incomplete disclosure of purpose in research is the process of gathering data from research subjects without their full knowledge of the research. This means that individuals upon whom the research is conducted will not be briefed or will be partially briefed (not exactly or adequately informed on the purpose of the study) to ensure that vital information about the purpose of the study is concealed from them. Although this process is considered controversial on ethical grounds, it is equally argued that such a process is vital in some behavioural and social science research. The justification is that the less information made available to the subject (participants) of some behavioural and social science study (such as sociology), the more reliable the data which will be generated from them. In other words, subjects might exhibit their natural behaviour when not fully informed about a study's purpose or unaware of being studied (Cheng-Tek, 2012).

Consequently, since previous studies which have attempted to explore the social life of undergraduates involved in drug abuse have been faulted on the grounds of the possibility of prejudice, labelling, typing and stigmatisation from sampled stakeholders,

studies on the same subject matter which sampled the subjects directly (undergraduates involved in drug abuse) can equally be criticised in that such participants who have been allowed to know the full purpose of the study might have equally provided unreliable, biased information about their social life to be up and doing. It seems that the only approach which is yet to be employed is to explore the social participation level of undergraduates involved in drug abuse through the principle of incomplete disclosure of purpose. Therefore, this study, using the principle of incomplete disclosure of purpose, assessed the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse. Also, differences in their social participation were examined based on their academic level, the university type (private or public), gender and nature of their residence (either on campus or off-campus).

Research Question

1. What is the level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in South West Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

- H₀₁ There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on their academic level.
- H₀₂ There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on university type.
- H₀₃ There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on gender.
- H₀₄ There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on the nature of residence.

Methodology

This study is a quantitative descriptive research design. This design was considered appropriate primarily due to its focus on exploring the phenomenon of social participation among undergraduates who are involved in drug abuse. All undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the southwest states of Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti. The study

employed a multistage sampling procedure, which involved the combination of stages with varying sampling strategies. Firstly, purposive sampling was utilised to select four states with the highest prevalence of drug abuse in southwest Nigeria. These four states included Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018). The second stage employed both referral and accidental sampling. Referral was considered appropriate because participants (undergraduates involved in drug abuse) cannot be randomly identified and are not available. Also, there are instances when researchers come in contact with the participants unplanned. This sampling strategy is considered suitable as the sample of interest belongs to the hidden population. It is a common position that purposive/referral/accidental sampling is used primarily in qualitative studies; it is also important to state that quantitative studies can equally use such sampling procedures based on the assumption that participants might not be randomly available, such as in this study (Kassiani, 2023, & Asiamah et al., n.d.).

A 17-item self-reporting scale of four rating scale options of Never (1), Sometimes (2), Often (3), and Very Often (4) was used for data collection. The instrument, which was tagged the Social Participation Self-Reporting Scale (SPSRS), was adapted from other instruments such as the Interpersonal Community Engagement (ICE) Scale. The instrument is a 20-item Likert scale type having response options of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree. The scales' alpha coefficient was determined by Corrigan and Walls in 2004, as reported by Hughes (2006), and yielded 0.93. Also, another instrument from which this present study was adapted was the Social Participation Questionnaire (SPQ) developed by Densley, Davidson and Gunn (2013). The instrument is a 22-item questionnaire with response options of “Never”, “Rarely”, “A few times a year”, “Monthly”, “A few times a month”, “Once a week or more”, “Yes” and “No”. In the pilot testing of the instrument, 789 participants responded to the instrument, which yielded 0.72 through the Person Separation Index (PSI).

The construct validation of the scale was done through consultation with experts in the field of sociology, measurement and evaluation. The reliability was also re-ascertained through the administration of the instrument to 30 undergraduates within the Ilorin

metropolis. After administration of the instrument, analysis for reliability was done through Cronbach's Alpha, and the reliability coefficient index was 0.91.

In the data collection process, *incomplete disclosure of purpose* was employed. This is because the consulted members of staff from a few private universities declined claims that their institutions had undergraduates involved in drug abuse. This principle was equally employed during data collection, as briefing the participants (who are undergraduates engaged in drug abuse) on the actual purpose of the study was concealed from them. This was possible by not writing the entire research title on the heading of the self-reporting scale (instrument) for data collection and hiding the main reason for their qualification to participate in the study from the respondents. This was to ensure the authenticity, objectivity, and unbiased nature of responses provided by the target subjects/participants, who, in this case, were undergraduates involved in drug abuse (Alan, 2015; Athanassoulis & Wilson, n.d.). This approach agreed with the perspective of Cheng-Tek (2012), who opined that some sociological and behavioural research could only be possible or best studied through the principle of deception.

In other words, in some behavioural, social, and educational survey studies, the less the participants/respondents know, the better and more authentic the data and, by extension, the findings provided. This method was suitable because participants were protected from physical and emotional harm, and their profiles and contact information remained confidential. Since research ethics requires that the protection of participants is guaranteed in any study that adopts the principles of deception, this study did not require the personal information of participants, such as their names, matriculation numbers, contacts, institutions, and courses of study. In other words, anonymity, secrecy, privacy, and confidentiality were highly upheld in the process of this study and at its conclusion.

The data collected from the field study were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Percentage analysis was used to describe the demographic data of respondents and to answer the research question. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test hypothesis 1, while a t-test was used for the testing of hypotheses 2, 3, and 4 at the 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Research Question One: *What is the level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in South West Nigeria?*

Table I: Percentage analysis of the level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in South West, Nigeria

Social Participation	Range	Frequency	Percent
Low	17 – 33	132	13.95
Average	34 – 50	685	72.41
High	51 – 68	129	13.64
Total		946	100.0

Keys: 17-33=Low Level; 34-50= Average; 51-68= High Level

The responses of the undergraduates involved in drug abuse to items that sought information on the level of their social participation in Southwest Nigeria are in Table I. Table I shows that 132, representing 13.95% of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, had a low level of social participation. Also, 685 (72.41%) of undergraduates involved in drug abuse exhibited an average degree of social participation in the Southwest, Nigeria, and 129, representing 13.64% of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, as sampled in this study, had a high level of social participation. It therefore implies that the level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, was average.

Testing Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: *There is no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on their academic level.*

Table II: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the difference in the level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on their academic level

Sources	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value	Decision
Between Groups	380.838	5	76.168			

Within Groups	56598.085	941	60.147	1.266	.276	NS
Total	56978.923	946				

Significance: $P > 0.05$

Results in Table II show an F-value of 1.266 and a p-value of .276, which is greater than 0.05 ($.276 > 0.05$). Since .276 is greater than the 0.05 alpha level of significance, the null hypothesis was not rejected. This means that there is no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on their academic level in the Southwest, Nigeria. The level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, does not differ across various academic levels. The degree of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600 levels does not vary.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on university type

Table III: The t-test analysis of the difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on university type

School Type	N	Mean	S.D	df	Cal. value	t- p-value	Decision
Private	154	41.8377	6.39595	945	.653	.514	NS
Public	793	42.2219	8.00102				

Significance: $P > 0.05$

As shown in Table III, the t-test calculated value is .653, while its p-value is .514, which is greater than 0.05 ($.514 > 0.05$). Since .514 is greater than the 0.05 alpha level of significance, the null hypothesis was not rejected. This means that there is no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, based on their university type. The level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, does not differ across university types. The degree of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in private and public universities does not vary.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on gender

Table IV: The t-test analysis of the difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on gender

Gender	N	Mean	S.D	df	Cal. value	t- p-value	Decision
Male	636	42.2264	7.82681	945	.380	.704	NS
Female	311	42.0225	7.63499				

Significance: P>0.05

As shown in Table IV, the t-test calculated value is .380, while its p-value is .704, which is greater than 0.05 (.704>0.05). Since .704 is greater than the 0.05 alpha level of significance, the null hypothesis was not rejected. This means that there is no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, based on their gender. The level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, does not differ across gender differences. The social participation of female undergraduates involved in drug abuse does not vary from that of male undergraduates involved in drug abuse.

H₀₄: There is no significant difference in social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on the nature of residence.

Table V: The t-test analysis of the difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on the nature of residence

Residence	N	Mean	S.D	df	Cal. value	t- p-value	Decision
On-campus	429	41.2051	7.72421	945	3.464	.001	S
Off-campus	518	42.9498	7.70951				

Significance: *P<0.05

As shown in Table V, the t-test calculated value is 3.464, while its p-value is .001, which is less than 0.05 (.001<0.05). Since .001 is less than the 0.05 alpha level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that there is a significant

difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, based on the nature of their residence. The social participation mean score of on-campus undergraduates involved in drug abuse is \bar{x} 41.2051, and the social participation mean score of their off-campus counterparts involved in drug abuse is \bar{x} 42.9498. Therefore, the level of social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, differs across the nature of their residence, with those off-campus having a higher social participation than their on-campus counterparts.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding in this study revealed an average social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria. This means that the cumulative assessment of the social life of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, is average. This is not consistent with the findings by Ekpenyong and Aakpege (2014); Bawa (2015); Umar, Ismail and Mukthar (2016); Joseph et al. (2019); Okafor (2020); and Omolola, Goodluck and Taye (2021), who revealed that lack of mutual respect and cordial relationships, social isolation and disrespect towards family members, friends and neighbours are major consequences of youths' and undergraduates' involvement in drug abuse. Based on their findings, it was reported that such individuals have higher chances of getting involved in suicide, kidnapping, cultism, vandalism of properties, rape and violence-related attitudes, which are evidence of poor social disposition.

Another study whose finding was inconsistent with the second finding of this present study is the research conducted by Ofueba, Adama, Nwankwo and Isiakwu (2020) with a large scope examining several universities across Southeast states in Nigeria. Their study found that undergraduates involved in drug abuse equally express aggression and violence, which are antisocially inclined. Also, the study by Dauda (2011), which sampled drug abusers going through rehabilitation at various social and mental rehabilitative centres, similarly found a deficiency in their social life, which is evidenced in social loneliness and faulty style of living. Similar to the first finding in this study, it is equally possible that the reason for this finding is a result of drug culture (a subset of counterculture) among undergraduates involved in drug abuse. Likely, those

(undergraduates involved in drug abuse) sampled in this study were able to manage their social life on average without allowing their involvement in the menace to interfere with their relationship with the social world. This submission is somehow consistent with the findings by Idowu, Aremu, Olumide, and Ogunlaja (2018), who revealed that students who engage in drug abuse do it during the time of entertainment, to be excited, and when with peers, which are all substantial elements of active social living. This implies that despite involvement in drug abuse, these participants are still able to attend religious and socio-cultural gatherings, engage in civil society groups, watch and participate in sports and games, visit friends and families and vote in elections, among others.

Further, another finding in this study was that there was no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse based on their academic level in the Southwest, Nigeria. This means that undergraduates involved in drug abuse at all academic levels in universities exhibit similar dispositions towards social activities and dynamics. Though similar studies on undergraduates involved in drug abuse were silent on the differences in their social participation based on their academic levels. The study by Dauda (2011) examined youths' involvement in drug abuse and the implications on their education and sampled 360 inmates across four social service centres in Kaduna State, which possibly could have cut across undergraduates from various academic levels. The finding was in agreement with the present study, as it was observed that all participants (who could have been drawn across all academic levels) exhibited similar social dispositions. The similarity in the social life and outlook of undergraduates involved in drug abuse may evolve from peer influence, which is buttressed by Egbe (2013), who found that when undergraduates engage in the practice of abusing drugs, it is done in groups. Such groups often consist of undergraduates from all or several academic levels (from 100 to 600 levels). There is equally the possibility that it is at this point that conscious and unconscious indoctrination towards social activities takes place, making them behave in a similar manner in social dynamics, irrespective of their different academic levels.

Also, it was found in this study that there was no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, based on

their university type. This means that the social disposition of undergraduates involved in drug abuse does not differ based on their university of study. In other words, undergraduates taking drugs from private and public universities exhibited similar social characteristics. Although there seems to be a scarcity of research conducted to compare the differences in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in private and public universities, as the researcher of this present study could not lay their hands on any. However, the studies by Ekpenyoung and Aakpege (2014); Ofueba, Adama, Nwankwo and Isiakwu (2020); and Omolola, Goodluck and Taye (2021) conducted at the University of Port Harcourt, a group of universities in Eastern Nigeria and a private university, respectively, showed similarity in the social disposition of undergraduates involved in drug abuse across public and private universities. In specific terms, the findings in the foregoing studies align with the present study, as it was revealed that participants drawn from private and public universities involved in drug abuse have higher chances of exhibiting similar characteristics of rape, kidnapping, cultism, vandalism of public properties and robbery, among others. Although previous studies observed poor levels of social participation to be common with drug-abusing undergraduates from private and public universities, this present study, contrarily, observed an average level of social participation which was common with undergraduates involved in drug abuse in private and public universities. The likely reason for the finding above could be that most of the sampled universities regulated the social activities of their students through regulations. Also, it could be that the aspect of drug culture which is prevailing among drug-abusing undergraduates in private and public universities is its use for recreational purposes. This aids the leisure aspect of their social life and does not obstruct social order.

Another finding is that this study revealed that there is no significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, based on their gender. In other words, there is no difference in the social disposition of male and female undergraduates involved in drug abuse. This finding is in line with the study by Dauda (2011), who examined inmates going through drug abuse rehabilitation in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study agreed with this current research on the submission that the social life of undergraduates and youths involved in drug abuse seems similar across gender lines. It means that both male and female undergraduates involved in drug abuse

exhibit similar dispositions to social dynamics. This is, however, contrary to the empirical submission by Ekpenyong and Aakpege (2014), who found that there is a difference in the social disposition of males and females involved in alcohol consumption, especially in their willingness and ability to engage in highly risky behaviour. The possible reason for the controversial finding between the two studies could be that Ekpenyong and Aakpege (2014) sampled participants majorly involved in the consumption of alcohol-related substances, unlike this study, which examined participants involved in drug and substance abuse. It could be that the drugs (such as hemp, marijuana, tramadol, cannabis, cocaine, codeine, cough syrups, tobacco/nicotine, heroin, Colorado and fentanyl, among others) have different psycho-social impacts on their abusers when compared to alcohol. Hence, the reason for the difference in the findings in the two studies is. In other words, the drugs which this study focused on could be assumed to be equally impactful on the social disposition of male and female undergraduates as alcohol. Although another possible reason for the result in this study could be the interaction of other environmental variables, which further explains the reason for the difference in findings.

Finally, it was found that there is a significant difference in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in the Southwest, Nigeria, based on the nature of their residence. It was discovered that undergraduates involved in drug abuse living on campus had lower social participation levels compared to their contemporaries living off campus. The probable reason for the difference could be that those living on campus are more restrained, unlike those living off campus. Also, it is pertinent to note that most or all universities close their hostel entrance at specific times, such as 10 P.M., 11 P.M., or midnight, unlike those living off-campus, who tend to be free to come in and out of their rooms/hostel at hours of their choice. Further, it should be noted that university hostels, through their porters, regulate visitation for students' residences in their hostels. However, the foregoing reasons could be assumed to be reasons why undergraduates involved in drug abuse living off-campus tend to have a higher social participation level compared to those resident on-campus. The study by Iftikhar and Ajmal (2015) had a contrary submission, as it was established that school hostels for students increase their social lives. It was further stated that since hostels consist of individuals of several cultural affiliations, it aids effective social circles through tolerance of individual differences and adaptation with

various roommates, among others. Thus, hostels are instrumental to effective social harmony and participation. Though the studies had different participants. While this present study examined undergraduates involved in drug abuse, the study by Iftikhar and Ajmal (2015) examined regular and random students living on campus. However, there is a probability that the difference in findings is caused by the nature of the participants sampled in schools. Also, it is suggestive that the low nature of social participation observed in this present study explains that drug abuse influences the social participation of undergraduates living on campus more adversely than those resident off campus and those not involved in the practice.

The findings of this study, particularly the revelation that undergraduates involved in drug abuse exhibit an *average* level of social participation, can be directly linked to the use of incomplete disclosure of purpose and explained through labelling theory. Methodologically, the incomplete disclosure of purpose reduced participants' reactivity, impression management, and fear of moral judgement, thereby eliciting more authentic self-reports of social behaviour than studies where respondents are fully aware they are being assessed as "drug abusers." This methodological strength likely accounts for the divergence between this study's findings and earlier studies that reported uniformly poor social participation, many of which relied on stakeholder perceptions or fully disclosed surveys. Theoretically, labelling theory helps explain how such earlier conclusions may have been shaped by stigma, stereotyping, and the social construction of drug-abusing undergraduates as social deviants, leading to exaggerated assumptions of social withdrawal and noncompliance. By minimising both external labelling from stakeholders and internalised self-labelling by participants through incomplete disclosure, the study was able to bypass the distorting effects of stigma and reveal a more nuanced reality: that involvement in drug abuse does not automatically translate into social disengagement. In this sense, the findings simultaneously validate incomplete disclosure of purpose as a strategy for improving data validity in sensitive behavioural research and empirically challenge the deterministic assumptions embedded in labelling processes surrounding undergraduates involved in drug abuse.

Conclusion

The study assessed the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse using incomplete disclosure of purpose, also known as thoughtful-deception. The study, which was conducted among undergraduates involved in drug abuse in Southwest Nigeria using incomplete disclosure of purpose, generated several results based on the highlighted research questions and hypotheses. Based on the quantitative analysis of the data retrieved, it can be concluded that the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse is average. There is no discrepancy in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse across all academic levels (100, 200, 300... 600 level), gender (males and females), and university type (private and public universities). There is also an exception in that undergraduates involved in drug abuse residing on campus (hostels) have a lower social participation compared to their counterparts residing off campus.

Recommendations

This study, as a result of the controversy which exists in the social involvement of undergraduates involved in drug abuse, assessed social participation. Based on the findings of this study, which reported an average social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse, it is recommended that the assumption that all undergraduates involved in drug abuse are total social misfits and noncompliant should be expunged. Therefore, rather than seeing them all as social misfits and, as such, labelling and stigmatising them, attempts should be made to further expose them to more social activities and civil society engagements. Therefore, social actors and *social prophets* (as classified by labelling theory), such as religious clerics and institutions, parents, mass and social media, peers and others, should cease from sidelining and pre-conceiving those involved in drug abuse and terming them as social miscreants, but rather improve and encourage their participation in social and civil responsibilities. This might be a platform through which the social menace of drug abuse will be curbed.

Universities should also actively encourage undergraduates to participate in social activities. With the university being considered a micro-society, the management should

encourage all undergraduates to participate effectively in the social life on campus. Students should adequately participate in activities that constitute social dynamics, such as campus elections; religious gatherings should not be discouraged, and more student organisations among undergraduates should be established. Healthy social participation should be graded in the academic assessment of undergraduates. Students should adequately participate in activities that constitute social dynamics, such as campus elections; religious gatherings should not be discouraged, and more civil societies among undergraduates should be established. Undergraduates' academic assessments should grade their healthy social participation. For example, engagement and active membership in a civil society on campus should be considered a compulsory course in university for all undergraduates (which will involve those abusing drugs). Such an initiative could be an effective platform and process through which the practice of drug abuse would be discouraged among undergraduates in universities.

Having observed a similarity in the social participation of undergraduates involved in drug abuse in both private and public universities, it will be imperative to state that private universities should not be exempted from encouraging adequate social participation among their undergraduates. This can be promoted by the educational policy makers and further enforced by the National Universities Commission (NUC) with expected compliance in all universities as a compulsory course to graduate. Also, knowing that civil society practices among undergraduates could be abused, the university authority must regulate and monitor their practices with a fair degree of autonomy.

Additionally, the practice and engagement in adequate social activities on campus should be cultivated as a culture from the moment undergraduates enter the university system. This initiative should be implemented from the first year of undergraduate studies through to graduation, due to the observed similarities in poor social participation among undergraduates involved in drug abuse across all academic levels.

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