**ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE IN NIGERIA AND THE ROLE OF CHRISTIANITY IN CURBING THIS MENACE**

**Abstract**

The consequences of drug abuse and alcoholism placed great burden on Nigerian society as it affected the economy, the health care system, the criminal justice system, and threatens job security, public safety, marital and family life.  Alcoholism and the abuse of other drugs, both licit and illicit can affect all aspect of a person’s life.  It can also affect the brain, damage emotional stability, finances, career, family and the entire community in which an alcoholic or drug abuser lives.  This author has corrected the misconception by many Nigerians that drug abuse is only applicable to illicit drugs, by proving that licit drugs can also be abuse.  This paper also considered the origin of alcoholism and drug abuse in Nigeria, the prohibition of alcoholism in Nigeria, the theories, types, signs and symptoms, the possible reasons for the involvement of Nigerians in the abuse of drugs and alcohol and the implication.

**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background of the study**

Drugs are commonly used by everybody whether young or old. Drugs are not only useful for human beings; they are also useful for animals for good health. Human beings give drugs to their animals when they discovered that they are not healthy. Drug is an effective substance in the life of any living thing to cure sickness and to make life healthy. It is true that drugs are used for beneficent therapeutic purposes, effective substance for good health, but they are being abused by people especially youths. They use it illegally and unlawfully, thus it becomes harmful to the body. The impact of drug abuse among Nigerian youths has been considered a moral decadent. Drug abuse has made the face of the Nigerian youths rough and brought shame to our society. The Nigerian youths are deliberately using drugs illegally, unlawfully and intentionally. Many of our youths ignorantly or knowingly depend on one drug or the other for their daily activities. According to the statistics provided by World Health Organization (WHO), drug including alcohol and tobacco, have caused a lot of road accidents and have claimed more lives than other sicknesses suffered by mankind. As International Drug Trafficking is gaining strength, the international cooperation against drug trafficking is steadily losing strength and lacking organization. The report from world narcotics has shown that confiscation level has fallen below 10 percent of the global circulation level of drug international mortality figures for drug abuse have tripled since 1988. In the United States, medical emergencies coming from cocaine taken rose by 1000 percent between 1976-1993, in the case of the heroine by 6 percent from 1988-1993 and by 155 percent in the case of cannabis. Cocaine addicts between the age of 12 and 17 increased by 166 percent from 1994-1995 in various countries. Drugs are being abused everyday.In Nigeria, this issue of drug abuse has been a serious concern for the society. Youths have taken to drug abuse. In recent times, the rate at which youths abuse drugs have been so alarming and worrisome that much effort have been made to eradicate it.Alcohol has many usage and contrasting connotations. A glass of wine with a meal can symbolize Love, friendship, relaxation and enjoyment of a special occasion. It can represent romance, coming of age, success, beginnings and endings, good news and good company. At a Christian Eucharist or Jewish Passover, where wine is also shared, thanks are given to God for divine salvation from all that were enslaved, restricted and condemned. In drinking the wine, Christians participate with the first disciples in their Last Supper with Christ, and Jews participate with the ancient Hebrews in their exodus from enslavement in Egypt. In African tradition, wine is used to portray a relationship and communion between the living human and ancestors, deities and other supernatural entities. This is evidence in covenant establishment, oath taking, daily ritual of libation, burial and institution of shrines and altars. Also in marriage ceremonies, the usage of alcoholic wine is indispensible even against the vehement opposition of Pentecostal churches in Africa with Nigeria as typical example. Ekwe (2000) stated that apart from water and wind, wine is another integral and indispensible part of African life and living. The presence is felt in almost all the activities of African customs and traditions ranging from burials, rituals, marriages, oath takings, covenant establishments, meetings, hospitalities, evening relaxation to all forms of their daily activities.

Unfortunately, the sacredness and redemptiveness of these occasions contrast with the association of alcohol with drunken violence in our towns and cities, cirrhosis of the liver on our medical wards, debts in families, death on our roads and numbers of fights in families. It contrasts more especially with the enslavement, which is alcoholism or alcohol addiction. This contrasting nature of alcoholic drink is clearly revealed in different chapters and verses of the Hebrew Scripture, the Old Testament. Serious warnings were placed on the need to avoid addiction and lust towards alcoholic wine. At some instances, some people were strictly warned not to taste alcoholic wine or partake in meals that have connection with alcohol. For instance, Nazarites like Samson in Judges 13:7, Princes in Proverbs 31:4 and the Rechabite family in Jeremiah 35 were in this category. The book of Proverbs 23:29-35 pointed out and analyze the state, condition and ordeals of an alcoholic drinker and the problem of addiction even in this contemporary era.

* 1. **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Drug abuse in Nigeria is now a common phenomenon. Females are not exempt in this evil act. A recent research shows that 15-20 percent of drug addicts are females while males constitute about 50-55 percent, all comprising of traders, students, unskilled workers and the unemployed as shown by a retrospective study carried out by NDLEA (Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency). Drug abuse has contributed in the set back of the society. Inspite of this, many youths do still indulge in it. In many psychiatric hospitals in Nigeria, many of our youths are there undergoing drug treatment. The numbers of the youths that are insane are more than old people that are insane and youths insanity is mostly caused by drug abuse. Some youths are school drop-outs because they could not continue due to the rate of drug they have taken that resulted to their insanity.

* 1. **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of the study is to examine alcoholism and drug abuse in Nigeria and the role of the Christianity in curbing this menace. But for the successful completion of the study, the researcher intends to achieve the following objective:

1. To ascertain the effect of drug abuse on the health of Nigerian
2. To examine the effect of alcoholism among Nigeria youth
3. To examine the relationship between drug addict and alcoholic
4. To examine the role of the church in curbing alcoholism in the society
   1. **RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**

For the successful completion of the study, the following research hypotheses are formulated by the researcher hypotheses

Hypotheses was formulated by the researcher

**H0:**drug abuse has no significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian.

**H1:** drug abuse has a significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian

**H0:**the church does not play any significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society

**H2:**the church does play a significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society?

* 1. **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

It is believed that at the completion of the study, the findings will be of great importance to the religious organizations; churches, mosque and other religious body to revisit the norms of their beliefs and help spreading awareness on the dangers of drug abuse and alcoholic on the health and well-being of the citizens.

The study will also be of great benefit to psychiatric and rehabilitation homes as the findings will help them educate their patient on the dangers of alcoholism and drugs to their mental well-being.The study will also be of importance to researcher who intends to carry out study in similar topic as the study will serve as a reference point. Finally the study will be of significance to academia, student, teachers, lecturers and the general public as the findings will also contribute to the pool of knowledge.

* 1. **SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The scope of the study covers alcoholism and drug abuse in Nigeria and the role of the church in curbing this menace. But in the cause of the study, the researcher encounters some constraint which limited the scope of the study;

**a) AVAILABILITY OF RESEARCH MATERIAL:** The research material available to the researcher is insufficient, thereby limiting the study.

**b) TIME:** The time frame allocated to the study does not enhance wider coverage as the researcher has to combine other academic activities and examinations with the study.

**c) FINANCE**: The finance available for the research work does not allow for wider coverage as resources are very limited as the researcher has other academic bills to cover.

**1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Alcoholism**

Alcoholism, also known as alcohol use disorder (AUD), is a broad term for any drinking of [alcohol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethanol" \o "Ethanol) that results in [mental](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mental_health" \o "Mental health) or [physical health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_health" \o "Physical health) problems. It was previously divided into two types: [alcohol abuse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol_abuse" \o "Alcohol abuse) and [alcohol dependence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol_dependence" \o "Alcohol dependence).

**Drug abuses**

drug abuse, is a patterned use of a drug in which the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods which are harmful to themselves or others, and is a form of [substance-related disorder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Substance-related_disorder" \o "Substance-related disorder). Widely differing definitions of drug abuse are used in public health, medical and criminal justice contexts

**Christianity**

Christianity is an [Abrahamic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abrahamic_religions" \o "Abrahamic religions) [monotheistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monotheism" \o "Monotheism) [religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion" \o "Religion) based on the [life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_of_Jesus_in_the_New_Testament" \o "Life of Jesus in the New Testament) and [teachings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Jesus" \o "Ministry of Jesus) of [Jesus Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus" \o "Jesus), who serves as the [focal point for the religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_in_Christianity" \o "Jesus in Christianity). It is the [world's largest religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_religious_groups" \l "Largest_religions" \o "Major religious groups), with over 2.4 billion followers, or 33% of the global population, known as [Christians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian" \o "Christian). Christians make up a majority of the population in 158 countries and territories

* 1. **ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This research work is organized in five chapters, for easy understanding, as follows Chapter one is concern with the introduction, which consist of the (overview, of the study), statement of problem, objectives of the study, research question, significance or the study, research methodology, definition of terms and historical background of the study. Chapter two highlight the theoretical framework on which the study its based, thus the review of related literature. Chapter three deals on the research design and methodology adopted in the study. Chapter four concentrate on the data collection and analysis and presentation of finding. Chapter five gives summary, conclusion, and recommendations made of the study.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

**2.1 Background of the study**

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening till wine inflames them! (Isaiah 5:11). The New King James version brought it clearer by calling it “intoxicating drink”. Probably the use of wine that time was that there was no intoxicating drugs and people were taken to intoxicating drinks. The Bible did not outrightly condemn the use of wine rather it condemns being intoxicated by wine. In Canaan in Galilee, Jesus Christ himself turned water into wine in a marriage feast (John 2:1-11). In doing this, it means that He did not condemn the use of wine but being addicted to it or being intoxicated by wine. To support this, the bible also says in Ephesians “And be not drunk with wine, wherein in excess; but be filled with the spirit”. (Eph. 5:18). In Titus 2:3, the bible says “bid the older women likewise to be reverent in behaviour, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink” In Prov. 20:1, “bible says wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler and that whoever is led astray by it is not wise”. With this, one can see that the Bible is not against wine rather against taken it in excess because it is made clear that instead of taking wine in excess, 9 why not be filled with the Holy Spirit. Timothy was advised by Paul not only to drink only water but to use little wine for his stomach’s sake and his frequent infirmities (I Tim. 5:23)

**2.2 THE CONCEPT OF ALCOHOL**

A proper approach on alcoholism may not be possible if an introductory discuss is not made on the concept of alcohol. William (2007) stated that in chemistry, alcohol is an organic compound which the hydroxyl functional group is (-0H) bound to a carbon atom. In particular, this carbon center should be saturated, having single bound to three other atoms. An important 15 class of alcohol is the simple acyclic alcohol, the general formula for which is CnH2n+10H of that ethanol (C2H50H) is the type of alcohol found in alcoholic beverages and in common speech the word alcohol refers specifically to ethanol. Many forms of alcohol exist though not all are consumable as there are toxic ones. Lodgsdon (1994) explained that the most commonly used alcohol is ethanol, (C2H5OH) with the ethane backbone. Ethanol has been produced and consumed by humans for millennia, in the form of fermented and distilled alcoholic beverage. It is a clear flammable liquid that boils at 78.40 c, which is used as an industrial solvent, car fuel, and raw material in the chemical industry. Another form of alcohol is methanol which is the simplest form of alcohol. Robert (2004) pointed that methanol (CH30H) was formerly obtained by the distillation of wood and therefore, it is called „wood alcohol”. It is a clear liquid resembling ethanol in smell and properties, with a slightly lower boiling point of 64.70C and is used mainly as a solvent, fuel and raw material. Unlike ethanol, methanol is extremely toxic; a sip as little as (10ml) can cause permanent blindness by destruction of the optic nerve and 30ml (one fluid ounce) is potentially fatal. Two other alcohols whose uses are relatively widespread (though not so much as those of methanol and ethanol) are propanol and butanol. Like ethanol, they can be produced by fermentation processes. According to Brent (2009:13) However the fermenting agent is a bacterium, clostridium acetobutylicum that feeds on cellulose, not sugars like the saccharomyces yeast the produces ethanol. Saccharomyces yeast is known to produce these higher alcohols at temperatures about 750 F (240 c). These alcohols are called fused alcohols or fused oils in brewing and tend to have a spicy or peppery flavor. They are considered a fault in most styles of beer. The most widely acceptable form of alcohol which is transformed into different forms of drinking beverages is ethanol or ethyl- alcohol. Uba and Ekenna (1992) stated that the major intoxicant of these drinks that we take is a clear, colourless, some what volatile liquid, ETHYL- 16 alcohol which is one of the series of alcohol that are relatively simple organic chemical substance made up of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen in various proportions. It can as well be chemically derived, synthesized from local grains. In Nigeria, examples of these alcohols include the fermented palm wine from palm tree, Ogogoro from palm wine, burukutu from guinea corn etc. Other types of alcohol prevalent include the larger beer such as Guinness stout, Legend extra stout, Gulder, 33 Export Lager, Harp etc. Also the locally made gin like kaikai, monkey tail and the industrial counterparts like Aromatic Schnapps, Whiskey, brandy, vodka, fall in this category. These drinks, according to Aduku (1992), have diverse level of alcoholic contents which are measured in percentage and so react differently based on the amount consumed at a particular given period of time. Therefore the determinant factor for the measurement of excessive drinking does not actually base on the amount consumed but on the percentage of alcoholic content in a particular beverage. This idea raised by Aduku (1992) brings this research work into the Scriptural idea of wines and beverages.

**2.3 PRODUCTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

According to Edith (1968), alcoholic beverages fall into three main categories in accordance with the manner of their manufacturing and the percentage of alcohol in them. They are namely: the brewed beverages, wine made from fruits and distilled spirits The brewed beverages are made from grains such as barley, oaths, maize. They include ale, beer, porter and stout. They are made by the conversion of starch in the cereals into sugar by the action of enzymes and the subsequent fermentation of the sugar. The conversion of the starch is effected by malt, which is usually sprouted barley. The enzyme formed during the sprouting converts the starch into sugar and then yeast is added which converts some of the sugar into alcohol. Glavas (2006:65) pointed, “The causative agent in fermentation is yeast which is a microscopically small plant usually present in the air or in dust. It produces an enzyme which is capable of breaking down sugars and finally converting the sugars into alcohol and carbon dioxide” Wines made from fruits, usually grapes, are by the direct fermentation of the sugar in the fruit juice. Wine of this sort, according to Hoffman (1996), could be made, as it was in antiquity, by simply exposing the fruit juice to the air in a warm place, but in commercial manufacturing of wine, carefully cultured yeast is added. Fermentation continues until the sugar has been turned 20 into alcohol and the concentration of the alcohol has risen up to 10 or 12 percent. When that strength is reached, the alcohol kills the yeast which produces the fermentation. Distilled spirit includes whisky, gin, rum and vodka. They are produced by fractional distillation of wines or brewed beverages to concentrate the alcohol in the distillate. Glaves (2006:67) analyzed, “in natural wines, the alcohol content ranges between 4 and 12 percent. Fortified wines are made by the addition of distilled spirits, usually brandy”.

Be not among winebibber or among gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags (Prov. 23:20-21). Isaiah 5:22 says “Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and valiant men in mixing strong drink”. The scripture describes an alcoholic thus; Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wound without cause? Who has rudeness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine, those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. They struck me you will say, but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I will see another drink (Prov. 23:29-35). This however implies that wine is symbolically used to denote intoxication in its entirety. People rarely regard alcohol as a dangerous drug, but it is. The scripture is warning against being an alcoholic, drinking to excess which is 10 abuse of wine. Alcohol reduces one to nothing. The scripture gives the characteristics of one who takes alcohol and warns that it is better that one is not tempted by the good sight of wine to drink to excess. Agha (2003:90) had this to say: Drugs are commonly used in Nigeria that the parents of every teenager are worried lest their children are taking drugs. The problem of drug abuse has become one of urgent anxiety to youth leaders – the teachers, the church, medical practitioners and anyone else who is concerned with the wellbeing of the growing generation. From his view, drug is a common thing in Nigeria. It is a frequently used substance and the problem of drug abuse has become the concern for those that bear the youths at heart. He went further to say that; A drug is a chemical substance used to alter deliberately mood, perception or consciousness. Its use for this purpose is generally harmful. However, this is not to say that the drugs cannot be used lawfully for beneficent therapeutic purposes. Drugs are addictive because they physically enslave, however, some are nonaddictive. Drug addiction is a tragedy in Nigeria. Drugs were meant for the treatment, prevention or diagnosing of disease and it is a chemical or biological substance but the drug addicts are using drugs habitually for a purpose it was not meant for. Drug trafficking is gaining strength steady and drug abuse is a continual act in Nigeria. 11 In a contemporary world, there seems to be no genuine unified international strategy against drugs in operation, that is why the trafficking is gaining strength, thus the international cooperation against drug trafficking is steadily loosing strength. In Nigeria, since the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) was formed, there was no much improvement towards the eradication of drug trafficking and abuse, instead the rate is becoming higher everyday. As one listens to the news, one hears drug trafficking businesses. In Britain, alcohol and tobacco are means by which government gets money. They cherish them so much because they give them money and as for them such cannot be eradicated. Gifford and Louis (2007:424) had this to say: It is the liquor traffic that supplies revenue which enables the administrators to deal with many crying evils. To make head against all of them, a strong and independent administration is requisite, to maintain that administration revenue is necessary; could the liquor traffic be entirely and immediately done away with, and a sufficient revenue obtained from the other sources, for one would be very glad. There is an adage that says that “one man’s meat is another man’s poison”. In Britain, alcohol and tobacco bear heavy duties in the colonies, they are used as a source of income to government but in Nigeria, they are not. They are seen as evil in Nigeria as many indulge in drug abuse and drug business even though that government is against it. Those who are in support of liquor traffic 12 maintain that if the natives do not have money to buy the original alcohol, they will be manufacturing their own with a low cost. This was why Harris (1997:148), noted that “If the African has a right to drink something and it is wrong for him to drink European alcohol, then in the name of common sense and justice, he has a right to drink his relatively harmless native liquor”. There is an argument that the traditional drinks, e.g. palm wine, locally made gin (ogogoro or kai-kai, burukutuetc) are better than that of foreign alcohol. Whether local or foreign, they are all very dangerous to the body if taken habitually. Many youths in the remote places are prone to abusing drugs especially local made gin (kai-kai), palm wine and brukutu. Brukutu which is normally called BKT is an intoxicating drink that is found mostly in the northern part of Nigeria. It is a very strong and intoxicating drink made of guinea corn. Even though it is an intoxicating wine that is being abused, it is protenous. “It is often asserted that alcoholism would prevail among the natives even if there were no importation of spirit” (Albert 1995:125). The indulgence of youths in drug abuse has caused a lot of problems in Nigeria even in our higher institutions. A person who is not intoxicated with drug can control himself or herself from quarrel but a drug addict cannot. So when they could not control the drugs in them, crisis will emanate. On the harvoc being caused by drug abuse, Sampers (1994:11) Lamented thus: I invoke the memory of the thousands of young people who, combating or consuming drugs, have lost their lives 13 and also invoke the future of our children who are threatened by drugs and gins. I call on the solidarity of the world to commit ourselves to this formidable challenge of blocking the way to organize crime. Drug abuse has been in existence and it’s havoc is going on. No society is free of drug and Nigeria is not an exception. Speaking on the dangers of drug called marijuana, Akah and Akunyili (2003:2) had this to say: For a large number of people, however, the medical or recreational use of marijuana develops into a chronic pattern of substance abuse. This abuse leads to a variety of psychological disorders which take an appalling toll on individual well-being, and severally tax treatment facilities. Though marijuana abuse is believed to be a problem of the high class, investigations have revealed that it is being abused by all grades and strata of Nigerian society with the main focus on the masses, particularly the youths and adolescents. Some harmful drugs are still medication. At the turn of the modern era, cannabis or marijuana was established as a medicament as described by Ashton (1987:141) thus; Its seed is used to make the genitals impotent. The juice from it drives out of the ear the worms and any other creatures that have entered them, but at the cost of a headache; so potent is its nature that when poured into water it is said to make it coagulate. And so, drunk in its water, it regulates the bowels of beast of burden. The root boiled in water eases cramped joint, gout too, and 14 similar violent pains. It is applied raw to burns, but is often changed before it gets dry. Dioscorides (1980:390) described it this way; Canabis is one of the most intoxicating drugs but useful. It is used to make strong ropes and has a round seed which being eaten of much doth quench geniture, but being juiced when it is green is used for the pain of the ears. Eze and Omeje (1999:1), Strongly believe that no matter the usefulness of drugs, that their harmfulness is more than it’s usefulness and that it affects the abuser and the people around him. They said; One thing that is salient in drug abuse is that it is hardly a personal problem, a problem that is owned, suffered or affected by the abuser alone. Rather it affects the abuser, people around him and a wide circle of individual. It is quite obvious that some harmful drugs are still useful for the body but the harmfulness is more than the usefulness. Therefore it is the role of the family, community, school, government especially the church, to make the Nigerian youths know the dangers of drug abuse, so that they will be useful to themselves, their families and the society in general, knowing that they are the leaders of tomorrow.

**2.4 DRUGS ABUSED IN NIGERIA**

Drug abuse has been a scourge in our country Nigeria especially among the youths. As seen in the definition, it is the intentional misuse of a drug without a written prescription from a doctor. It is necessary to know those drugs that are being abused. So in this chapter, attempt will be made to write out with full explanation of most of the drugs, their uses, effects or consequences, causes of drug abuse etc

**2.5 COMMON DRUGS THAT ARE ABUSED SUBSTANCE**

**Alcohol:** This is the commonly abuse substance. It is the drug of choice in our society and most people are taking it. People do not regard it as a dangerous drug because in Africa, especially in Nigeria, it is part of their daily life and they drink it often. According to Agha (2003:86); Most Africans believe that wines, “ogogoro” local gin and spirits are believed to be a necessary passport to social acceptance. Beer is advertised daily as drink which makes a man truly masculine, lagers and light also are said to promote the feminine touch. Alcohol is most often viewed as a depressant, although it can be a stimulant and for some it is a hallucinogen. Alcohol includes the following: ethyl, methyl, prophyl, butyl and amyl. Each of them composed of one 16 chemical and has its industry. During the 1940’s and 1950’s, there was a view that alcoholism is a disease and that it can be cured as an illness. In 1957, the American Medical Association (AMA) came to a conclusion that alcoholism is a disease. Alcohol abuse manifests as drinking becomes increasingly important and take priority over every other thing else. “Alcohol abuser or problem drinker or alcohol addict is a person who drinks too much on a regular basis” (Odejide: 230:25). Sometimes they try to control themselves from drinking but it has penetrated inside them so much that it takes time and the special grace of God to stop alcoholism. Alcohol abusers are at risk for continuing in alcoholism. Alcoholism can increase or emerge as a result of the death of a loved one, trouble, unemployment, dismissal from work, betrayal, retirement, family problem etc.

**2.5.1 Uses of alcohol**

i. Recreation

ii. Relaxation of mind or body or for sleeping

iii. Eradication of thinking and anger

iv. For protein (especially the local drinks e.g. burukutu known as BKT)

v. It serves as a ingredient in alcoholic beverage

vi. Chemical for manufacturing purposes

vii. It is medicinal

viii. It stimulates the body

**2.5.2 EFFECTS OR CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOLISM ABUSE**

i. Problem at work; continual lateness, missed days, continual mistakes etc. ii. Difficulties at home; coming home late, sleeping a lot, forgetting duties or responsibilities, family problem and breakdown etc.

iii. Accident

iv. Financial problem

v. Breaking of relationships

vi. Academic problem: such like dropping grades, skipped classes, failure vii. Weakness of the body

viii. Craving; an intense desire or compulsion for alcohol, loss of control of alcohol, inability to manage one’s alcohol consumption drinking despite its negative consequences.

ix. Mental disability

x. Unfruitfulness (as in child bearing)

xi. The addict becomes dishonest

xii. Unemployment

xiii. It can lead to dismissal from job

**2.6 CANNABIS (MARIJUANA)**

Aka and Akunyili (2003:1), says that “marijuana is the common name for the plant cannabis sativa. The plant has been used for centuries, primarily for it’s euphoric (mood altering) effects and is one of the leading drugs of abuse particularly among the youths”. This drug first emerged in the United States of America (USA) in the 1920’s. It is dangerous and addictive, by 1960’s and 1970’s it became popularly known by the youths till today day. It is an indigenous product, cheapest among drugs and most widely abused by the youths. (Abel, 1980). Cannabis was brought into Nigeria by slave traders and soldiers who returned from the world wars. This drug is widely used by millions of people because of it’s effectiveness in mood alteration. Through research, it has been revealed that it is being abused by all grades and strata of Nigerian society especially the youths and adolescents. This drug has been causing a lot of problem to the Nigerian youths till this day. (Aka and Akunyili, 2003)

**a. Processing for Use:**

i. Cutting or harvesting the seed, dried, chopped and incorporated into cigarette mash by dissolving it in an organic solvent.

ii. Cooking together with food – The leaves are collected and put in a pot, adding water and a little ethanol, after boiling for sometime it will be allowed to cool and with a spoon the oily resin on the surface will be collected. It is popularly called a “charas or hashish oil” by the addicts. In the fume method, as the user draws the fumes which comprises mainly of Tetra Hydro Cannabinol (THC), the active material in cannabis, the effect through diffusion is felt in the body through the blood stream and nervous system.

iii. Rubbing of the green leaves to produce a greenish liquid substance. The greenish substance will be moulded into a ball and wrapped with foil or polyethylene and allowed to dry for about 5-10 days. It is called “hashish or golden temple” due to the shining golden coating found on it. iv. Grinding – The dried cannabis leaves are ground into fine powdery substances and stacking the stuff into sacks conceal as grain or cereal for export. It can be concealed in a drum or tank and can also be used as hair creams and ointments. This one is commonly used in Nigeria.

**2.6.1 EFFECTS OR CONSEQUENCES OF CANNABIS OR MARIJUANA ABUSE**

**i. Mental disorder:** It has an effect on the brain. It has destructive effect on the lives of teenagers and youths in general, that is why many of our young promising youths are insane today in Nigeria. “Cannabis may precipitate into latest psychiatric disorders or worsen existing psychiatric problem or do both” (Roland and Taste: 1958:694). Abuse of marijuana brings about continuous wandering from one place to another and eventual mental illness. According to Andreasson and Co. (1987:1483), “there are incidences of marijuana induced toxic psychosis, which is a serious temporary disturbance of normal brain activity and the patience is disoriented and always experience hallucinations”. “In Nigeria, incidence of drug induced mental illness in a psychiatric hospital revealed that 85% of the causes were marijuana-related and the majority of the patients were between 16 and 30 years”. (Ene, 1989:12). In our tertiary school, University of Nigeria, Nsukka as a case of study, mental disorder is seen and some of them are caused by marijuana abuse. Students that are the future of tomorrow, that will be of good use to their family and nation and make great positive impact in the society are wasting their lives in drug abuse, running amock because of effect of this drug abuse.

**ii. Crime:** A major social cost of relegating a substance to the illicit category is the criminal activity that often results following the use of marijuana. Sometimes people commit crime because of the influence of marijuana they have taken. Loss of control during cannabis intoxication may result in violence or other impulsive behaviour. The effects of cannabis may lead to stealing. Ames (1958:972), says that cannabis may provide persons predisposed to criminality with the courage to commit anti-social act. It is quite obvious that some people who want to indulge in criminal activity like armed robbery, usually take marijuana in order to remove fear, tension and to empower themselves for the operation. In doing other anti-social activities like drug trafficking, prostitution, murder, child abuse etc, people do take marijuana.

**iii. Respiratory Problem:** It was discovered that smoking of cannabis for a long period leads to respiratory disorders. “Long term smoking of marijuana has long been associated with laryngitis, pharyngitis, cough, hoarseness, bronchitis, and asthma”. (Aka and Akunyili, 2003:46). Due to the deeply inhaling of the smoke longer in the lungs, it brings in a lot of tar into the lungs more than how cigarette does.

**iv. Effect on Sex and Reproduction** Marijuana causes sexual urge and at the same time reduces sexual urge. Abel, (1980:37), “Marijuana has been dreaded throughout history because of its alleged powers to evoke uncontrollable sexual passions. At the same time, marijuana reduces sexual urge and causes impotence”. In Ancient Rome, Discorides (1980:25) wrote that: The juice of the marijuana seed was useful for treating low sexual urge or desire while Galen and Pliny warned that excess smoking of marijuana seed could cause sexual impotence. Several survey studies suggest that marijuana usage is unquestionably associated with increased sexual activity and enjoyment with many people, with the attendants promiscuity. There is no doubt that opportunities for sexual contact are likely to seem desirable under the influence of a mood enhancer like marijuana. Jackson (1925:97) observes that “cannabinoid compounds adversely affect male and female sexual organ weight and function. It inhibits sperm production and lowered concentration of testosterone in males”. Habitual smoking of marijuana shrinks the sex organs, producing sterility and impotence.

**2.7 COCAINE**

This is a stimulant. It is a white powder that is typically sniffed. In it’s original form, it is chewed as a leaf from the cocoa plant. Cocaine is a byproduct of the resin of cocoa plant. The plant is mostly found in the South American countries like Peru, Chile, Columbia, Bolivia etc and was used initially to enhance physical endurance or by doctors as a local anesthetic before it’s abuse by addicts. (Barber, 1967). Cocaine is abused when used in a wrong way. It is done by mixing the raw cocaine powder with sodium bicarbonate (Na2Co3 ) in a particular proportion. The mixture is poured into a conical flask with distilled water and heated over an unseen burner and the rock it will form is what the addicts use. They take it by combining it with other drugs. The powdery substance is injected or snorted by the addicts. (Hollister, 1995). “Snorting is the process of inhaling cocaine powder through the nose, where it is absorbed into the bloodstream, smoking involves inhaling cocaine vapour or smoke into the lungs where absorption into the bloodstream is as rapid as by injection while injection, is the use of a needle to release the drug directly into the bloodstream” (Lauer, 1978:50). These three methods of cocaine usage can lead to addiction and other severe health problems.

**2.8 CAUSES OF DRUG ABUSE**

There are a lot of factors that cause drug abuse among the Nigerian youths.

**a. Peer Group:** This is one of the common causes of drug addiction and abuse. It is a form of societal influence on the affected youth. “Peer group is a group of people of the same age or social status” (Hornby, 2000:860). A lot of evil like drug abuse, armed robbery, rape, among our youths in Nigeria and beyond are caused by peer groups. Someone can be influenced to become a drug addict by his friends who are drug addicts. Some people are drug addicts today because they associate with drug addicts and they do not want to be called “Jew guys” by their friends. Some people are compelled by their friends to become drug addict. One would like to be identified with his friends or peer group and when one is addicted to a particular drug he or she will have the craving for that drug thereby loosing the sense of direction in his or her life.

**b. Family:** The parental background of a child can expose a child to all sorts of evil including drug abuse. This could be due to family problems like broken homes, polygamous family, poverty, cultural influence on children, having a father who is a drug addict etc. if a child has a father who is a drug addict, it is likely that the child will become a drug addict, “like father like son”. As the child watches his father there is every tendency that the child will become a drug addict or smoker and from cigarette smoker he will graduate to other hard drugs. There is an Igbo adage that says “Nneewunataagbaranwayaanaeleyaanyan’onu” (As a she goat chews grass, the child will be looking at her mouth) P. O. Eze, (Personal Communication 26th April, 2009). “I was a drug addict before because my father was a drug addict and several times I used to see him snorting drugs into his nostrils, drinking the tablet form and injecting the drug into his body. In an interview with the researcher a girl of 20 years, she said, “I am a drug addict because I cannot behold and bear the enmity between my parents, any time they start their quarrel, I take drug to forget about them”. M. I. Ikenwa, (Personal Communication 28th April, 2009). Some parents who engage too much in the struggle for survival tend to neglect their responsibilities on their children. A Nigeria drug abuse students’ activist had this to say; Most parents in Nigeria today in their bid to make end meet, searching for greener pasture always abandon and neglect the proper welfare of their wards and children and expose them to the “unofficial” assistance of the so called house-maids. This ugly incidence will psychologically depress such children thereby given rise to CHILD ABUSE which is an off-shoot of DRUG ABUSE. Such youths will end up in taking solace in some illicit hard drugs gradually and systematically ruined uncontrollably, thereby destroying the moral values of the Nigerian society via her youth. Wasted generation of course.(Drug abuse activist). When parents fail to carry out their responsibilities on their children, they are exposing the children to evils like drug abuse and others. The scripture says 48 “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). Eph. 6:4 says “And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”. In proverb also the scripture urge to flog a child, that if you flog your child that he will not die. So many youths are drug addicts today because they were not brought up religiously or trained well by their parents.

**c. Emotional Stress:** Some youths are emotionally stressed but instead of looking for a proper medical attention they will embark on self medication, like taking drugs that are not prescribed by a doctor which leads to drug abuse. In this way they will be using hard drugs that are illegal and unwholesome for their body to stop the stress. Some youths desire coffee or other hard drugs in order to subdue sleep without knowing that nature cannot be cheated. When one is an addict to a particular drug, the craving for that drug will be high. The habitual use of this substance may lead to drug abuse.

**d. Frustration:** This is another fast and commonest factor that leads to drug abuse. Many youths are frustrated in our society today. Many of our youths’ desire or dreams are unfulfilled. Some are in the higher institutions without graduating because of references and other hidden things that are setting them back. Frustration can set in based on a number of factors such as graduating from higher institution without getting any employment, being disappointed by their loved ones, death of a dear one or bread winner, dismissal from job, conspiracy and accusation etc All these contribute to drug addiction and abuse. According to an informant who suffered the ugly effect of drug abuse, he said; “I had many references and my girl friend I loved so much, whom I used to help financially in the school betrayed my love for her and I could not bear all these, I became a drug addict”. E. E. Okeh (Personal Communication 6th May, 2009). Another person said, “I was a drug addict for months when I could not get a job 6 years after I had finished serving my father land, what a country!” S. O. Eke (Personal Communication 20th May, 2009). Frustration has led the Nigerian youths into drug abuse.

**e. Imitation:** Children easily imitate things whether good or bad especially from someone they see as a model. For fathers that are cigarette smokers or drug addicts, children can easily imitate them unless they have not seen them in the act. In practicing or smoking with an ordinary paper gradually, they will become perfect in cigarette smoking or in drug addiction.

**f. Search for a Dreadful Identity:** This is commonly found on the streets, some secondary schools and in higher institutions. Some youths like to have bad look, they like to be identified as “bad guys” and to be feared. I. C. Ugwu (Personal Communication 1st June, 2009) “I did not fail any examination when I became a drug addict on campus eventhough I was not serious in academic, I do not even write all the exams, my countenance and appearance dreads students and lecturers. I was not a cultist but a drug addict”. Some people are abusing drugs today because they want to have dreadful appearance so that people will be afraid of them.

**g. Brain Charge/Sensation:** Some people are drug addicts today, abusing drugs because they are seeking for sensation. They want to “charge” their brain. This is habitually done by criminals for carrying out their criminal acts like robbery, raping, thuggery etc. With the abusing of drugs they can carry out their crime without having human sympathy, taking human beings as nothing because their brains have been charged and they can kill their fellow human beings easily. In an interview with a criminal at Nsukka Prison, he says “If I take a wrap, my brain go charge well for action, I no go be person again, and person no go be person for me again” O. M. Enebe (Personal Communication 15th June, 2009).

**2.9 THE CHURCH’S ROLE IN CONTROLLING DRUG ABUSE IN THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY**

The church has a role to play in controlling or even eradicating drug abuse entirely. As earlier defined, church is the body of the followers of Christ. The followers of Christ are the Christ-like people, people that are living as Christ lived, the imitators of Christ. So as the imitators of Christ, they should not fold their hands and see drugs being abused by people because it is very clear that drug abuse is not good and the church knows that. So the church should try as much as possible to help to control or even stop drug abuse in Nigerian society. The following are the roles of the church in controlling drug abuse in Nigeria.

**Preaching:** “Preaching is the public proclamation of good tidings or good news”. (Douglas, 1962:1023). The church should seriously and always preach against drug abuse. Through preaching, the church can reach to a wide range of people because it is not a religious discourse to a close group of initiates, but open and public proclamation. Preaching should not be hidden or done only in religious gathering, it should be public and carried out everywhere by the followers of Christ. The church should not only preach against drug abuse in the religious gathering, it should also be preached in television, radio, put in CD 72 and VCD, it can even further be put up in news papers, magazines, tracts, books etc so that it can reach to a wide range of people. The church should preach repentance and salvation to people. If an abuser of drug is morally regenerated, he should stop abusing drug. The sinful nature of man controlling the affairs of man needs spiritual change. By having the new spiritual nature, drug abuse would be put to a stop by the abusers. Drug addicts need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. When people live by the spirit, they will not gratify the desires of the flesh including drug abuse. So it is the role of the church to preach against drug abuse. As earlier said, the church should not preach against drug abuse only at the religious gathering rather it should go beyond that. The church can reach a wide range of people and with that, drug abuse can be reduced or even eradicated.

**Prayer:** As the body of the followers of Christ, the church should be prayerful because Jesus was prayerful when He was on earth. Prayer is the word we say to God or it is the way by which one communicates to God or it is the way by which one tells God his or her needs. Prayer is an effective or essential role of the church in controlling or eradicating drug abuse. The church should always pray against drug abuse and the abusers so that God will touch their lives and cause them to stop abusing drugs. Prayer changes things Fomum (1988: 1), “the intercessor can accomplish the impossible on his knees, he can move the hand and the heart of God by prayer and God will in turn get people toact according to His will”. Church should not relent in praying to God to change the life of drug abusers. Prayer can do all things, God may one day change and make them to act according to His will. The scripture says “pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17), which means that the church should pray without relenting concerning drug abuse. Divine intervention will stop drug abuse. The researcher believes that those that may be abusing drug under demonic influence or cause can be rescued through prayers.

**Seminars/Teaching:** The church should always organize seminars on drug abuse and expose drug abuse and its effects for people to know. Sometimes people are engaged in drugs abuse without knowing the effects on them but with the help of frequent seminars and teachings on drug abuse, people will be taught the effects or consequences of drug abuse and the way out. The church can organize this seminars within and beyond them. The church can organize it for schools, communities etc and drug abuse awareness can be created. There are people who cannot do without drug, it has become part of them but with frequent seminars and teaching on drug abuse, they can be delivered.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

* 1. **Introduction**

This chapter deals with the method used in collecting data required in carrying out this research work it explains the procedures that were followed and the instrument used in collecting data.

* 1. **SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION**

Data were collected from two main sources namely

-Primary source and

-Secondary source

**Primary source:** These are materials of statistical investigation, which were collected by the research for a particular purpose. They can be obtained through a survey, observation questionnaire or as experiment, the researcher has adopted the questionnaire method for this study.

**Secondary data:** These are data from textbook Journal handset etc. they arise as byproducts of the same other purposes. Example administration, various other unpublished works and write ups were also used.

**3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

Population of a study is a group of persons or aggregate items, things the researcher in interested in getting information from for the study alcoholism and drug abuse in Nigeria and the role of the church in curbing the menace 200 members of selected churches was randomly selected by the researcher as the population of the study.

* 1. **SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

Sample is the set people or items which constitute part of a given population sampling. Due to large size of the target population, the researcher used the Taro Yamani formula to arrived at the sample population of the study.

n= N

1+N(e)2

n= 200

1+200(0.05)2

= 200

1+200(0.0025)

= 200 200

1+0.5 = 1.5 = 133

**3.5 INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION**

The major research instrument used is the questionnaires. This was appropriately moderated. The secretaries were administered with the questionnaires to complete, with or without disclosing their identities. The questionnaire was designed to obtain sufficient and relevant information from the respondents. The primary data contained information extracted from the questionnaires in which the respondents were required to give specific answer to a question by ticking in front of an appropriate answer and administered the same on staff of the two organizations: The questionnaires contained about 16 structured questions which was divided into sections A and B

* 1. **VALIDATION OF THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

The questionnaire used as the research instrument was subjected to face its validation. This research instrument (questionnaire) adopted was adequately checked and validated by the supervisor, his contributions and corrections were included into the final draft of the research instrument used.

* 1. **METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

The data collected was not an end in itself but it served as a means to an end. The end being the use of the required data to understand the various situations it is with a view to making valuable recommendations and contributions. To this end, the data collected has to be analysis for any meaningful interpretation to come out with some results. It is for this reason that the following methods were adopted in the research project for the analysis of the data collected. For a comprehensive analysis of data collected, emphasis was laid on the use of absolute numbers frequencies of responses and percentages. Answers to the research questions were provided through the comparison of the percentage of workers response to each statement in the questionnaire related to any specified question being considered.

Frequency in this study refers to the arrangement of responses in order of magnitude or occurrence while percentage refers to the arrangements of the responses in order of their proportion.

The simple percentage method is believed to be straight forward easy to interpret and understand method . the researcher therefore choose the simple percentage as the method to use. The formula for percentage is shown as.

% = f/N x 100/1

where f = frequency of respondents response

N = Total Number of response of the sample

100 = Consistency in the percentage of respondents for each item contained in questions.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**PRESENTATION ANALYSIS INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

**4.1 Introduction**

Efforts will be made at this stage to present, analyze and interpret the data collected during the field survey. This presentation will be based on the responses from the completed questionnaires. The result of this exercise will be summarized in tabular forms for easy references and analysis. It will also show answers to questions relating to the research questions for this research study. The researcher employed simple percentage in the analysis.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

The data collected from the respondents were analyzed in tabular form with simple percentage for easy understanding.

A total of 133(one hundred and thirty three) questionnaires were distributed and 133 questionnaires were returned.

Question 1

Gender distribution of the respondents.

TABLE I

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender distribution of the respondents** | | | | | |
| Response | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Male | 77 | 57.9 | 57.9 | 57.9 |
| Female | 56 | 42.1 | 42.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 133 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

From the above table it shows that 57.9% of the respondents were male while 42.1% of the respondents were female.

Question 2

The positions held by respondents

TABLE II

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The positions held by respondents** | | | | | |
| Response | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| **Valid** | **Pastors** | 37 | 27.8 | 27.8 | 27.8 |
| **Elders** | 50 | 37.6 | 37.6 | 65.4 |
| **Deaconesses** | 23 | 17.3 | 17.3 | 82.7 |
| **Deacons** | 23 | 17.3 | 17.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 133 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

The above tables shown that drivers respondents which represents27.8% of the respondents are pastors, 50 respondents which represents 37.6 % are elders, 23 respondents which represents 17. 3% of the respondents are deaconesses, while 23 respondents which represents 17.3% of the respondents are deacons

**TEST OF HYPOTHESES**

drug abuse has no significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian.

Table III

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **drug abuse has no significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian.** | | | |
|  | Observed N | Expected N | Residual |
| Agreed | 40 | 33.3 | 6.8 |
| strongly agreed | 50 | 33.3 | 16.8 |
| Disagreed | 26 | 33.3 | -7.3 |
| strongly disagreed | 17 | 33.3 | -16.3 |
| Total | 133 |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test Statistics** | |
|  | drug abuse has no significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian. |
| Chi-Square | 19.331a |
| df | 3 |
| Asymp. Sig. | .000 |
| a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 33.3. | |

Decision rule:

There researcher therefore reject the null hypothesis that state that drug abuse has no significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian as the calculated value of 19.331 is greater than the critical value of 7.82

Therefore the alternate hypothesis is accepted that drug abuse has a significant effect on the health and mental well-being of Nigerian.

**TEST OF HYPOTHESIS TWO**

The church does not play any significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society

Table V

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **the church does not play any significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society** | | | |
|  | Observed N | Expected N | Residual |
| Yes | 73 | 44.3 | 28.7 |
| No | 33 | 44.3 | -11.3 |
| Undecided | 27 | 44.3 | -17.3 |
| Total | 133 |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Test Statistics** | |
|  | the church does not play any significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society |
| Chi-Square | 28.211a |
| Df | 2 |
| Asymp. Sig. | .000 |
| a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 44.3. | |

Decision rule:

There researcher therefore reject the null hypothesis that state that the church does not play any significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society as the calculated value of 28.211 is greater than the critical value of 5.99

Therefore the alternate hypothesis is accepted that the church does play a significant role in curbing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the society.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY CONCLUSION RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 Introduction**

It is important to ascertain that the objective of this study was on alcoholism and drug abuse in Nigeria and the role of Christianity in curbing this menace.

In the preceding chapter, the relevant data collected for this study were presented, critically analyzed and appropriate interpretation given. In this chapter, certain recommendations made which in the opinion of the researcher will be of benefits in addressing the menace of alcoholism and drug abuse in Nigeria.

**5.2 Summary**

Abbott et al (2009) stated that the best method to treat alcoholism or alcohol dependency vary depending upon an individual’s medical and personal needs. Some heavy drinkers who recognize their problem appear to recover on their own. Others recover through participation in the programs of Alcoholics Anonymous or other self-help groups. Some alcoholics require longterm individual of group therapy, which may include hospitalization. And still others do not seek treatment at all. These people do not seek treatment as the result of combination of factors, including ignorance of the symptoms of alcoholic- use disorders, the social stigma that still surrounds these disorders, that is, the fear of being labeled an alcoholic and an unwillingness to accept lifetime abstinence from alcohol as a treatment goal. These approaches can be helpful.

**5.3 Conclusion**

Drug is a substance that affects the function of a living cell, which is used to cure and prevent the occurrence of illness. A drug becomes a “medicine” when it is used to save life, it becomes “poison” when it causes death, it becomes “mis-use” when people indulge in self-medication to cure illness and it becomes “abuse” when it is used indiscriminately. Due to the habitual use of drugs, drug addicts especially youths cannot do without it and it has been a problem to our country Nigeria and the world in general. The impact of drug abuse among the Nigerian youths has been a stigma to the society. The effects of drug abuse especially among our youths and society are so devastating. Many of the Nigerian youths depend on one form of drug or the other. The rate at which youths abuse drugs is so alarming and worrisome. Many youths have tried one drug or the other and many of them are 80 drug abusers today. The family, church, community, school, Nigerian government have role to play in controlling drug abuse in Nigeria, Bamaiyi (1997:14) had this to say: Certification or no certification, Nigeria must continue the drug war. In this hide and seek game, our primary objective is to salvage the nation from the scourge of hard drug. Proverbs chapter 14 verse 12 says “there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”. In this regard, youths should reject drug abuse because it may seem good to them but it leads to doom.

**5.4 Recommendations**

Haven completed the study, the researcher therefore recommend that Parents should train up their children in the fear of the Lord and they should re-orientate them on the adverse of drug abuse on their health, society and human dignity because charity begins at home as they say. The Ministry of Education (Federal and State) should add to their curricula “Drug Education” for both the primary, secondary and tertiary schools in Nigeria. They should always organize lectures, seminars, rallies, film show etc for the Nigerian youths on the effects of drug abuse. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food and Drug Abuse Control and other control groups should not relent in carrying out their responsibilities on drug abuse in order to make Nigeria a drug abuse free society with a special focus on the Nigerian youths because they are the future leaders of this great country, Nigeria. The Nigerian government as a whole should always be educating the public on the dangers of drug abuse through awareness, programme for the Nigerian youths etc.

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