



Multifaceted impacts of drug and substance abuse in urban Zimbabwe: An exploratory study

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Abstract

This study explores the multifaceted impacts of drug and substance abuse in urban Zimbabwe, focusing on Harare, wards 12 and 25, Chitungwiza. The study employed a qualitative method and an exploratory design. The sample population comprised of all youths living in an urban community of Zimbabwe who are involved in drug and substance abuse. Data was gathered via in-depth interviews and participants comprised 20 youths (10 males, 10 females) aged 15 to 30 and (5) key informants. Data was analysed through Thematic Content Analysis which revealed that there is a robust link between socioeconomic attributes such as poverty, unemployment and the incidence of drug and substance usage. The study found that drug and substance abuse have a plethora of impacts on young people and the community at large. Some of the impacts discovered in this study include unemployment, detachment from victims' families, financial hardships, family disputes, and victims' inability to fulfil basic survival needs. The study highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions addressing socioeconomic determinants to mitigate drug and substance abuse in urban Zimbabwe to rescue the youths from drug and substance reliance and abuse.

Keywords: Drug and Substance Abuse; Multifaceted Impacts; Urban Zimbabwe; Drug Use Disorder

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1. Introduction

Drug and substance abuse in Zimbabwe is significantly increasing, with a higher prevalence observed in urban regions compared to rural areas (Dlamini, 2023). Drug abuse is a problem that has devastated the world, especially the younger generation. Drug abuse is fast becoming the lead cause of death, mental disorders, unproductivity, and disintegrated families. There is a need to establish what works to curb the drug abuse problem that has cut across almost all races, religions and nationalities, as international borders have become increasingly porous, making accessibility to dangerous drugs increasingly widespread throughout the world. The incidence of drug and substance abuse in Zimbabwe is on the rise, with a greater frequency reported in urban areas as opposed to rural regions (Matutu and Mususa, 2019). Drug and substance abuse is rapidly increasing, with an estimated 45,000 deaths annually directly attributed to drug abuse. Socioeconomic inequalities such as poverty, inadequate education, and marginalisation might increase the chances of developing drug use disorders (Rugoho, 2019; Nhapi, 2019). Drug use disorders are caused by multiple factors and typically have a pattern of recurring and improving symptoms, similar to a chronic disease. The presence of socioeconomic disparities, together with poverty, inadequate education, and marginalisation, can heighten the likelihood of developing drug use disorders and worsen their repercussions (World Drug Report, 2020).

Drug use disorders have a detrimental effect on various aspects of an individual's life, including their academic performance, work opportunities, and economic prospects. These repercussions also extend to their families and communities, creating a harmful circle of negative impacts (Mtemeri and Nhamo, 2019). This cycle may be worsened by the heightened vulnerability to negative psychosocial and environmental factors, which are often linked to impoverished socioeconomic conditions. Socioeconomic disparities can significantly affect specific groups and environments, such as individuals residing in metropolitan regions or those belonging to minority communities. Thus, it can be observed that drug usage has the potential to heighten stigmatising views in individuals, thereby restricting their ability to get therapy.

Drug abuse is a widespread issue that has caused significant harm globally (Maraire et al., 2020) and it is increasingly becoming the primary factor contributing to mortality, psychiatric problems, decreased productivity, and broken families. It is imperative to determine effective strategies to address the widespread issue of drug abuse that affects individuals from various races, religions, and nationalities (Anderson et al., 2020). Interpol and other international forums have actively addressed the issue of drug addiction by diligently combating the cross-border transportation of drugs (Maraire et al., 2020). The World Health Organisation has addressed the problem of drug abuse by establishing global benchmarks for the treatment and recovery of drug addiction (World Health Organisation, 2019). The United Nations International Drug Control Programme addresses worldwide concerns related to drug misuse, including prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation (Heikkilä, Maalouf & Campello, 2020). Maraire and Chethiyar (2020) observed a disconcerting trend of escalating drug usage cases worldwide, despite the collective efforts of various states and international organisations to combat this issue. Hence, it is evident that drug and substance abuse has emerged as a societal issue impacting the youth. This study, therefore, seeks to establish the multifaceted impacts of drug and substance abuse in urban Zimbabwe and provide possible solutions to curb drug and substance abuse among the youths.

2. Literature review

Drug abuse can be directly influenced by socioeconomic features at the individual, community, and country levels (World Drug Report, 2020; Mazuru, 2018; Matutu and Mususa, 2019). For instance, research has shown that economic recessions and the rise in unemployment are linked to higher rates of drug and substance abuse. This connection can be attributed to psychosocial stress pathways or intermediate mechanisms, such as income inequality (Maraire et al., 2020). Specifically, the distribution of health-care facilities in different areas can contribute to the levels of opioid overdose. Peer pressure is a prominent catalyst for drug abuse among youths, and this includes a lack of comprehensive understanding about drug abuse and the disintegration of the family structure (Rugoho, 2019). The majority of households are led by children, either because their parents have died as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic or because their parents have migrated to other countries in search of employment. The economic crisis in Zimbabwe led to the disintegration of families and, to some extent, can be considered a contributing cause to drug abuse among teenagers (Abdu-Raheem, 2013). The economic situation in Zimbabwe has prompted a significant number of individuals to migrate in search of better opportunities. This has resulted in the disintegration of families, leaving behind children who are more susceptible to drug misuse.

Manhica et al. (2021) conducted a study on the significance of socioeconomic circumstances in connection with drug abuse. The study found that poor living conditions, limited access to education and work, and unfavourable neighbourhoods and housing characteristics can impact drug-related behaviours (Manhica et al., 2021; Jakaza and Nyoni, 2018; Hanson et al., 2018). There is a correlation between poverty among young people and the development of drug use disorders. Manhica et al. (2021) found that in Sweden, nearly all patterns of poverty experienced during infancy and adolescence were linked to an increased likelihood of engaging in drug and substance misuse. Poverty exacerbates stress, which is widely acknowledged as a contributing factor to substance abuse and relapse following treatment (Dlamini, 2023). The burden of affording shelter and meeting basic requirements can lead to significant stress, prompting those who are struggling financially to seek temporary relief through drug usage (Anderson et al., 2020; Dlamini, 2023). Impoverishment amplifies a sense of despair, making it challenging to satisfy basic financial obligations and rendering aspirations of pursuing higher education, employment, and similar endeavours appear unattainable (Duffy et al., 2017). Consequently, individuals may begin to experience a sense of powerlessness regarding their own future, which might make them more susceptible to substance abuse.

3. Research methodology

This study employed a qualitative method and an exploratory design. The sample population comprised of all teenagers living in an urban community of Zimbabwe who are involved in drug and substance abuse. The researcher utilised purposive sampling, which allows for the deliberate selection of individuals based on specific criteria that are relevant to the study. Thus, the researcher selected teenagers who have experienced substance misuse, usage, and/or addiction. Data was gathered via in-depth interviews to enable direct interaction between the researcher and the participants. A total of twenty (20) young individuals and five (5) key informants were chosen. The organisation of key informant interviews adhered to six specific standards, which included evaluating the appropriateness of the key informants for the study, meticulously choosing the key informants, developing the interview method, and preparing an interview guide. The interviews, which

lasted between 30 and 45 minutes, were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. In-depth interviews were conducted at local community centers in Harare, wards 12 and 25 of Chitungwiza, ensuring accessibility and comfort for participants. The researcher meticulously adhered to all the criteria, thus effectively collecting data from crucial sources. The primary informants included a Member of Parliament, three local councillors, community health care providers, a youth leader, and organisations engaged in combating teenage drug and substance addiction. Data was analysed through Thematic Content Analysis to help the researcher discern, examine, and interpret patterns within qualitative data. In order to ensure data validity, the participants reviewed and confirmed their transcripts.

4. Ethical considerations

All ethical considerations of the study were observed and followed the fundamental principles by Bhandari (2021). Bhandari (2021) asserts that when conducting research there is a set of ideologies that monitor the researcher's design and practices. Bhandari (2021) further purports that ethical considerations keep the rights of the research participants, enrich research authority, and sustain scientific and academic honesty. The researcher understood the importance of observing ethics in qualitative research. The principles that were followed included voluntary contribution, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potential for harm. The study included minors and individuals who had challenges of understanding what is needed from the document, so the researcher presented the suitable information in written or verbal form. Thus, the researcher introduced herself, asked for permission from the gatekeepers, the participants and explained well the purpose, the importance of the study, and how the researcher was going to collect data. Participants were well-versed that they had the choice and opportunity to choose to take part without any pressure and would withdraw from and leave the study at any point.

The researcher also informed participants of all relevant information in regards to the study, and the participants were assured that their data would be kept confidential. The researchers provided participants with a consent form to complete, but those who chose not to were not forced. The researcher ensured anonymity through data pseudonymization, whereby participants' identities were replaced with fictitious identifiers; for example, each participant was assigned a random name.

5. Findings

The study revealed a robust link between socioeconomic attributes and the incidence of drug and substance usage. Both variables exert reciprocal influence on each other, as socioeconomic considerations exert influence on drug usage and the repercussions of drug use affect socioeconomic factors. The study investigated the participants' understanding of socio-economic factors and indicators, as well as the relationship between socio-economic position and drug and substance abuse. The study found that the community understanding of socioeconomic determinants includes income, education, social support, general security, employment, community safety, and social status. If these criteria are not fulfilled, individuals may be prone to making dramatic choices, such as resorting to excessive drug and substance abuse, in order to deal with the stresses of their socioeconomic conditions. One of the participants who was a key informant had this to say,

"From my own understanding socioeconomic factors in Zimbabwe are a double-edged sword. On one hand there is poverty, unemployment and corruption. On the other hand, we have a resilient community that is struggling to make ends meet, already the economy of Zimbabwe is deteriorating every minute and it becomes worse for residents from high density areas (ghettos). For example, I know people who have resorted to vending and cross boarder trading just to survive. Whilst they are others who have failed to cope with the economic stresses such as high inflation, limited access to education and high school fees which they are unable to pay. At the end of the day, they have resorted to drug abuse as a stress relief. Drug abuse is when an individual take drugs or substances that are harmful to themselves and people around them. Indeed, this is a rancorous cycle."

The participants demonstrated that the relationship between socioeconomic factors and drug and substance abuse is crucial, if not addressed, the cases are bound to increase exponentially. Correspondingly, another participant concurred that drug and substance abuse has a plethora of impacts that are namely, poverty, socio-economic burdens, economic hardships, hunger and corruption. The participant had this to say;

"growing up in Chitungwiza I have seen how unemployment and financial disparities drives people into consuming drugs. In urban Zimbabwe, socio-economic factors are social and economic experiences and realities that help shape one's personality, attitudes and lifestyles. For example, when people go to school, they all have the mindset and goals that after getting educated they will be employed and be able to cater for their needs and families. It's unfortunate that in Zimbabwe a lot of educated people are home defenders. Moreso, it's not everyone who had the privilege to go to school, most people in urban areas are school drop outs because of financial constraints. Some factors may be positive or negative for instance employment, education, wealth, having a family that supports you and all these may influence and affect an individual's place in the society. Someone who grew in Borrowdale and Mbare their accessibility to resources such as healthcare, education, money and others is totally different meaning this will affect their decision making."

Participants discussed the socioeconomic indicators and their influence on an individual's likelihood to engage in drug and substance abuse. Therefore, it can be noted that socioeconomic factors contribute immensely to the escalation of drug and substance abuse among teenagers.

5.1. Economic constraints

The study has established that the economic challenges in Zimbabwe have resulted in a substantial number of people facing unemployment. This circumstance is discouraging as it pertains to persons who have completed high school and are expected to be financially independent, but are unable to do this due to their unemployment. One participant who is a victim of substance abuse had this to say;

"The reason why chose to take spirits like 'tumbwa' and crystal meth is because I get to escape the thoughts of my situations. I am unemployed, it's sad and disappointing that I cannot take care of myself because of the economy of Zimbabwe, there are no job opportunities that can suit some of us whom did manage to finish ordinary level because of family issues and it gets worse that in our

area it is a ghetto therefore, those in power they only focus on affluent areas like Borrowdale. Most jobs these days require learned people as well a strong social network. Sometimes, I work as a conductor and I get 50cents there is nothing that one can do with that money rather barely enough to buy spirits."

The accounts provided by the participants indicate that economic disparities in Zimbabwe have resulted in elevated rates of unemployment and notable socioeconomic inequity. It is important to highlight that unemployment has left many youths clueless and desperate for employment. Therefore, individuals undergo psychological suffering in the form of depression when considering their life path and existential meaning.

5.2. Indolence

Young people who are unwilling to make an effort for personal progress have been recognised as being prone to drug usage, with indolence being a significant cause. Therefore, this section provides data on the viewpoints of participants and the researcher's observations, demonstrating that a substantial proportion of young individuals engage in substance abuse as a result of their lack of motivation to work, lack of responsibility, and as a means of avoiding the difficulties of real life. The absence of motivation and support from their communities, relatives, and friends can be a contributing cause to this outcome. Moreover, the high incidence of dependency syndrome has had an adverse effect on numerous young individuals. One participant had this to say;

"I do not agree about other youths engaging in drugs and substances because of lacking something, I think it's because they are lazy. Instead of waking up and finding something to do they resort to drugs using the little money they have to do nothing. In Zimbabwe's economy, you have to be creative and innovative. Most of these youths they do not want to work they would rather sleep, hallucinate, spend most of their time sitting on bridges and doing drugs. Thus, they prefer leisure over productive activities, spending more time at 'mukoto or pagomba'."

Indolence has been recognised as a contributing factor to the engagement of young individuals in drug and substance abuse. The interviewees noted that despite the pressure from the socioeconomic environment, young folks are unable to create opportunities for themselves. The children appear to have been significantly impacted by dependency syndrome, resulting in a noticeable lack of motivation towards work. Moreover, it is apparent that the economic volatility in Zimbabwe has led to a dearth of opportunities for the younger generation to cultivate their professional and personal growth. As a result, young individuals become lazy and choose to stay at home, exclusively engaged in drug use.

5.3. Detachment from families

The study revealed that the idea of being separated from their families is a contributing factor to the high occurrence of drug and substance misuse among young individuals. Detachment is the condition of being devoid of any connection or association. The study posited that malfunctioning institutions could potentially exacerbate a dearth of empathy, assistance, and mentorship for young individuals, hence precipitating drug usage as a mechanism for pursuing fulfilment. Another participant expressed the opinion that;

"I started using drugs due to hunger and poverty at home in Chitungwiza unit H. I find it better to spend the whole day drunk 'kusticker' than being sober especially with the situation that is at home. my mother was remarried to another man that's when things changed. I never felt like I was a child at that home, was never loved. My step father was abusive and he favoured his children and stopped me from continuing school because he finds it unnecessary for one to attain advanced level."

Testimonies from participants suggest that familial separation can contribute to a proclivity for drug and substance abuse. Another participant from Harare 19year old shared that,

"I felt disconnected from my family after my parents' divorce. I engaged into drugs to cope with the emotional pain. It's unfortunate that as children we do not have a say in our parents' problems. We only have to deal with the traumas they put us through based on their decisions."

During the interviews, the researcher saw that a significant number of these young individuals experience a dearth of empathy, affection, and support from their family. As a result, some individuals resort to drug consumption as a strategy for dealing with stress, while others use drugs as a technique of managing stress.

5.4. Stress relief

A significant number of individuals resort to drug and substance abuse as a strategy for dealing with social and economic limitations, such as academic challenges, financial hardship, anxiety, joblessness, familial disputes, and the inability to fulfil their basic needs. Drugs and chemicals act as analgesics, providing relief from pain and affording temporary relief. The interviewees emphasised that stress reduction was a major factor that motivated their involvement in drug addiction. The researcher identified this pattern by analysing the narratives offered by participants;

"I started smoking weed and consuming bronco after my parents were involved in an accident. They both died in that accident, I felt alone and unheard because I was the first child this meant that I had to look after my other sibling. The pressure was just too much for me. Smoking 'mbanje' made me feel as if I was not alone anymore because I could see my mum and dad. That made me feel better because we could have conversations. My associates are always there for me and now I have a group where I belong 'a new family'."

According to the testimonies and personal experiences of those involved, it is clear that a considerable proportion of young people are resorting to drug consumption as a result of socioeconomic factors, such as the influence of their social environment, poverty, and financial insecurity, which consequently result in increased levels of stress. According UNICEF (2019) 30% of Harare's children live in child headed households. Consequently, they choose to consume chemicals and substances that may potentially endanger their health. Furthermore, the difficulties that individuals face have a substantial impact on their tendency to resort to drugs as a method of dealing with stress.

5.5. Peer pressure

Peer pressure encompasses the processes and methods by which humans develop and classify certain components, such as attitudes, dress, lifestyles, and ideas, as either conventional, abnormal, or deviant. This phenomenon was apparent in the study, as it clearly showed the degree to which numerous young persons were impacted and classified as deviant, thereby causing them to adhere to those expectations. Another participant expressed the opinion that:

"My name is Takudzwa, I am boy aged 18. I started using drugs like marijuana, broncleer and spirits due to peer pressure. My friends, all older than me introduced me to these substances. I was stressed about dropping out of school because there was no money for me to continue with my education. So, it ate me up to an extent that I did not know what to do that's when one of my peers said try this and you will feel better until I was addicted because I could actually feel better after using them."

The study's findings suggest that young people partake in substance abuse as a result of the influence exerted by their classmates or the folks in their immediate surroundings.

6. Discussion

The findings suggest a crucial relationship between socioeconomic determinants and drug and substance abuse. If not taken care of and addressed the cases will escalate exponentially. The World Drug Report (2020) supports these findings as it suggests that drug use disorders have numerous aetiologies and typically manifest as a chronic illness characterised by fluctuating severity. The existence of socio-economic inequality, poverty, low education, and marginalisation increases the chances of developing drug use disorders and worsens their consequences. Further, drug use problems have several consequences on an individual's life, family, and community, subsequently impacting their educational, vocational, and financial prospects (World Drug Report, 2020). Therefore, the study observed that a considerable proportion of young individuals in the urban community under study are prone to drug and substance abuse as a result of the unequal distribution of resources, the geographical location, and the economic difficulties in urban Zimbabwe. As a result, this increases the probability of acquiring a drug addiction. Experts widely agree that unemployment has a significant role in the issue of drug and substance misuse among young individuals. Mtemeri and Nhamo (2019) argue that unemployment is a substantial global concern. Zimbabwean young people face the problem of unemployment and often do not have the necessary financial means to start income-generating projects (Rugoho, 2019). Consequently, teenagers are left with ample leisure time and a dearth of engaging activities (Nhapi, 2019).

In urban Zimbabwe economic hardships manifest as high inflation rates and limited job opportunities particularly in urban areas such as Harare and Chitungwiza. The resulting idle time, limited engaging activities and financial constraints increase the probability of acquiring a drug addiction. This finding is consistent with Honwana's (2012) argument that a considerable proportion of African youths confront the difficulties of unemployment and insufficient education. Honwana (2012) contends that youths who possess limited skills upon graduating from school encounter challenges in securing job and attaining financial autonomy, including

the ability to lease a residence, provide for their family members, and gain societal acknowledgement as adults. The youths face numerous challenges, despite the fact that their relatives often struggle to understand their experiences and are unable to sympathise with their difficulties (Nhapi, 2019). However, families get impatient and dissatisfied due to the absence of support and the lack of regard for young adults who face a prolonged period of unemployment after finishing school (Nhapi, 2019). As a result, this lack of commitment has a negative impact on young people.

Hirschi and Gottfredson (2000) assert that persons lacking commitment to their work, future prospects, accomplishments, and personal objectives are more prone to participate in criminal activities, such as drug abuse. Therefore, considering the narratives of the participants who took part in this study, it is evident that unemployment has led to a substantial proportion of young people in the urban community under study resorting to substance and drug abuse and developing a dependence on substances. The increase of drug and substance abuse among youths in other urban areas of Zimbabwe like Mbare show forth that this is a social ill that needs to be addressed. In urban Zimbabwe this has resulted in delayed transition to adulthood, limited access to resources and growing frustrations and desperation among teenagers. The self-control theory, as stated by Hirschi and Gottfredson (2000) suggests that persons who have weak social ties with their family, friends, and community are more prone to engaging in criminal activities and substance abuse.

Nhapi (2019) noted that a considerable proportion of youths partake in excessive drug and substance consumption as a result of insufficient empathy, affection, and comprehension from their parents and relatives. These partnerships are anticipated to offer care, empathy, and benevolence to the young individuals. Therefore, according to the participants' experiences and stories, they feel a lack of connection to their community, families, and others, which leads them to look for love in other places. This ultimately leads to drug usage as a way to reduce stress. According to Makichi (2023), the socio-economic issues in the country have produced advantageous circumstances for individuals involved in the drug trade. Youths who lack productive activities frequently turn to drug consumption as a method of alleviating their emotional distress (Makosa, 2020). Okafor (2019) found academic challenges as the main trigger for drug addiction among undergraduate students at the University of Ilorin. Mcleod et al. (2024) suggests that not meeting the demands outlined in Maslow's hierarchy can lead individuals to make drastic decisions, such as turning to drug abuse. For example, in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the second level highlights the importance of safety and security as a basic requirement. Hence, individuals who lack a sense of security may resort to deviant behaviour and engage in illegal acts.

According to several analysts, peer pressure can yield both negative and positive consequences (Zimbabwe Situation, 2022). Hirschi's (1969) social control theory suggests that persons involved in delinquent activity struggle to form or maintain a strong relationship to society, which is marked by attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief Hirschi (1969) in Hirschi & Gottfredson (2000). Control theory theorists emphasise the need of maintaining links with family, school, peer groups, and other social, political, and religious organisations (Liska & Messner 1999; Thio, 2010 as cited in Hanson et al., 2018). When an individual is compelled to participate in detrimental activities, such as drug consumption, their behaviour becomes adverse. Individuals of all age groups, even adults, can be influenced by peer pressure. The World Drug Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2019) emphasised the substantial impact of peer pressure and social networks on drug and substance abuse. Additionally, Gunda and Mbwirire (2020) have emphasised the influence of peer pressure in promoting drug abuse among most students. Based on the findings of Gunda

and Mbwirire (2020) in Zimbabwe 52% of the participants admitted that peer pressure was the primary catalyst for their involvement in drug and substance abuse. This percentage was greater in comparison to other characteristics such as poverty, experimental reasons, availability of money, and parental negligence.

Gunda and Mbwirire (2020), further revealed that a significant proportion of students acknowledged resorting to drug use as a means to obtain social approval from their peers. The researcher further established that most of the participants in the main findings were involved in drug consumption as a result of the influence or manipulation exercised by their peers. Most youths tend to feel a deeper sense of connection and belonging towards their friends rather than their family. Certain individuals engage in these activities as a method of alleviating stress, while others depend on them to carry out their occupations, such as in the context of sex work. Hence, the socio-economic factors stem from the dysfunction of social and economic processes, or from circumstances such as mistreatment, joblessness, and destitution. This illustrates that drug abuse continues to be a persistent problem as long as the socio-economic elements are not adequately tackled.

7. Conclusion

The study found a strong correlation between socioeconomic characteristics and the frequency of drug and substance use. It has been established that both variables have a mutual influence on each other, as socioeconomic factors have an impact on drug consumption and the consequences of drug use affect socioeconomic factors. The paper highlighted that the economic difficulties in Zimbabwe have led to a significant section of the population experiencing unemployment. This situation is disheartening for well-educated persons who, despite having finished their education, are in a stage where they are supposed to be financially self-sufficient but are unable to achieve this due to lack of employment. Youths that exhibit a lack of motivation towards personal growth have been identified as being more susceptible to drug abuse, with indolence being a prominent contributing factor. A significant portion of young individuals partake in substance abuse due to their lack of motivation to pursue employment, absence of accountability, and as a means to evade the challenges of everyday life. The study found that a sense of parental separation is a major contributing factor to the high prevalence of drug and substance abuse among young individuals.

The study suggested that dysfunctional institutions may contribute to lack of empathy, support, and guidance for young individuals, leading them to turn to drug use as a means of seeking fulfilment. A considerable proportion of persons turn to drug and substance abuse as a means of coping with social and economic constraints, including academic difficulties, financial adversity, stress, unemployment, family conflicts, and the inability to meet their fundamental needs. The high prevalence of drug and substance abuse requires intervention from the government and other responsible authority to intervene in order to save young people from the shackles of substance abuse. This can be achieved through the creation of recreational activities for the youths, creation of employment opportunities and the tightening of ports of entry in order to prevent illegal entry of illegal drugs. This is due to the fact that corruption and porous borders are some of the major challenges that the nation faces and as a result, the importation and distribution of illegal drugs becomes easy for the perpetrators and other connected individuals who facilitate the infamous activities. Therefore, intervention from the government through relevant legislative amendments and collaboration with the security sector such as the police and NGOs to curb the distribution and use of illegal drugs and substance becomes highly crucial.

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