Alcohol Use Among Junior Secondary School Students in Nigeria

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Alcohol use is the most fancied method chosen by students to display attainment of adulthood among youths. Many students use alcohol and cigarettes to establish status symbol and attract the attention of colleagues especially the female students. This behaviour emanates from a society that seems helpless in the face of value decay that has engulfed the African traditional institution in the name of globalization. The use of weeds, alcohol and other drugs is rampant in most communities in Nigeria today. The female students are not spared by this virus. Most students pick up the habits in schools. This follows the unrestricted sale of alcohol and other substance of abuse in staff quarters. Outside school, students join a community of adults who consume drugs freely recklessly and wantonly. The consequence of this is that student form gangs whose sole objective is to use and share drugs and learn various shades of terrorist acts.

The purpose of this study is to determine the rate of alcohol use among adolescent junior secondary school students in a Local Government Area in Nigeria.

METHODS: Questionnaires were administered to 80 randomly selected students in year 1-3 drawn from 4 secondary schools. The questions were crafted in such a way that it did not give away the purpose. Issues in current affairs, religion, social studies were mixed with a few others targeting drug and alcohol use. The questionnaires were administered one on one but allowing freedom for the subjects.

RESULTS: 40% of the students have used alcohol at least once in their life. 26% drank an alcoholic beverage to the point of intoxication, 32% had used their own money to buy an alcoholic drink for personal consumption in the past while 48% never had any contact with alcohol.

CONCLUSIONS: Alcohol is consumed by a large number of secondary school students in rural Nigeria.

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