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Drug Use, Alcoholism And Youth Violence In Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods In Ilorin

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Abstract

In Nigeria, the havoc wrecked by the drugs, alcohol abuse, and youth violence is inestimable. This is owing to the fact that many young people were arrested and/or admitted to hospital for drug, alcohol, and violence-related problems. Literature has established a strong link between the drug and alcohol abuse and youth violence. Against this backdrop, this study examines the effect of the drug and alcohol abuse on seemingly obnoxious youth violence in Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods in Ilorin. The study was situated within the context of Broken Window Theory. The study adopted multiple sampling method and data were gathered from primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire and In-depth interview (IDI) were employed to collect primary data from 500 respondents conveniently selected. The quantitative data were analysed using frequency tables, simple percentage, and Chi-square test of association, while qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. The study established that youth violence is common in Ilorin. About 50.8% respondents affirmed that their neighbourhood is not safe from youth violence. 62.8% of the study population affirmed that youth violence is more common in their neighbourhood. 57.4% of the respondents said they had experienced several incidents of youth violence in the last 90 days. Furthermore, respondents affirmed that youth violence in Ilorin is a result of an interplay between several factors: Neighbourhood unplanned structure (73.1%); Unwillingness to report to police because of fear of victimization (81.6%); No sign of security patrol (49.1%). Accordingly, access to illegal drugs and alcohol is an important factor impelling youth violence in the study area ($P < 0.05$). The findings from the study highlight the need to incorporate the local administration and community leaders in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse and youth violence, while also addressing the socio-economic and neighbourhood factors responsible for youth violence.

Keywords: Drug Use; Alcoholism; Youth Violence; Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods.

Introduction

In an attempt to complement some pleasant features or escape from the unpleasantness of life (real or imaginary) human being adopted the use of mind-altering substances of natural origin like fragmented liquor and different plant products. Although, the use of these substances was more of occasional and moderate the trend is changing and it is fast becoming a norm. This was the trend of substance use in Nigeria until the 1970s and 1980s when drugs like cannabis, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines and pharmaceutical opioids (codeine, morphine etc) become popular. Careful observation and numerous research reports in the society today shows that the second leading problem confronting Nigeria after

insecurity is the problem of drug and substance abuse (Ahiane, 2003; UNDCP Nigeria Projects, 2003). Most deplorable, however, is the rate of increase in the use and abuse of drugs among the young people between the age of 10 and 29 in contemporary Nigeria is regrettably serious and alarming (Suleiman, 2013). These are the years of personal growth and development. The problem of drug use and abuse among students and the non-student is universal (Ngoka, 2003).

The act of abusing drug has taken different dimensions over time. In recent time, different dimensions have been introduced into drug abuse, which includes new experimentations and new discoveries. The current trend has witnessed many



youths using lizard dung, pit toilet/soak away fumes, Tramadol, Rohypnol and many more as drugs. It must be noted that the use of illegal drugs was once unheard of in Nigeria, it became widespread as Nigeria became a dumping ground for illegal drugs meant to be transported to Europe from Latin America (Syndelle, 2011). More recently, a report shows that narcotic drugs, codeine, and tramadol are the most commonly abused by the Nigerian youth (Adeyemo, Ohaeri, Pat, Ogodo, 2016). In Kwara State alone, 6162.42kg of narcotic drugs were seized, and 664 suspects were arrested out of which 100 and 88 people prosecuted and convicted respectively between 2012 and 2016 (NBS, 2016). This is quite worrisome given the fact that this would have multiplier effect both on the health of the abusers and on the society at large.

Drug and alcohol abuse in Nigeria and the new trends are becoming a significant medical, psychological and socio-economic problem facing the nation. The effects of drug abuse and alcoholism on the security of lives are becoming more worrisome. Research has shown that there is interconnectedness between hard drugs and alcohol intake and an act of violence. It has led to increased secret cult activities and organized crimes including assault, theft, property damage, and fraud (Boden et al., 2013; Ekpenyong, 2012). In a study of over 6000 violent offenders' inmates in Canada, it was found that 48 percent admitted to using illegal drugs (Siegel & McCormick 2006). Scholars have posited that that alcohol and drugs can impact violence in three ways. These revelations are the pointer to the fact that there is a likelihood that abusers of alcohol and drugs will lead to psychopharmacological effects that impair cognition which consequently increases the likelihood of aggressive behaviour. From the reports above, many have argued, for example, that the physiological impact of substance use serves to reduce social inhibitions and thus frees or enables people to act on their violent impulses. Also, drug and alcoholism may increase violence in such a way that it increases the economic need of the abusers. It has been widely established that many abusers of drug and alcohol engage in violent crimes (including robbery) when looking for money to buy drugs.

Perhaps, it must be acknowledged that as problematic as drugs and alcohol abuse is in the flesh of the Nigerian society, many adolescents and young adults in Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods (SDNs) of Ilorin still live and socialize in this situation. These SDNs are criminogenic (prone to criminal activities) and

characterized by high concentration of poor people, unplanned housing, high rates of school dropouts, criminal subculture, high rates of substance abuse, a higher number of unemployed or underemployed youths. The increasing access to illicit drugs and alcoholism by the youths in these areas may be conceived to have contributed to the high proliferation of violence among the youth in the city. Over the years engaging in crime such as violence has become a money making ventures in Ilorin particularly among the youth. Apparently, each Socially Disadvantaged Areas in Ilorin is known to have some 'ungoverned spaces' occupied by youths who consumes and sells drug and alcohol on a daily basis. These youths constitute the crime groups, youth gangs, and have usurped some particular spaces in these neighbourhoods. They have come to be well known among the people and continued to spread like a legitimate group in their numbers. These areas include Sango and Oke- Andi area controlled by Afobaje and One love, Opomalu-Emirs road and Oke-suna controlled by Apase boys, Oloje controlled by Tatase boys, Anifowose controlled by Authority, Idiape controlled by Ariyo boys, Isale-Oja controlled by Oluomo and Adua boys, Agaka and Adabata controlled by Bayero and Owo boys, Gambari and Ita-Ajia (Fifa 11 domain) and Okelele (Go-slow) (Saheed, 2015). These are popular areas in Ilorin where the use of drugs and alcohol have become illegitimately normalized since the activities in these neighbourhoods were virtually unchecked by any security force, thus making access to illicit drugs easily accessible.

In most of these communities, the socio-economic activities of the neighbourhoods have been surrendered to these gangs including the collection of daily tax from the motorists, Okada riders and the allocation of shops. Meanwhile, the eruption of gang conflicts is very common in the neighbourhoods among these gang groups. Whenever violence erupts, residents live in panic and become prisoners in their homes. Consequent upon this, parents are usually scared to let their children participate in community activities, which may further lead to isolation. Thus, the children of the neighbourhood have become consistently exposed to violence and isolated from other more positive experiences and good role models.

Fundamentally, this study attempts to examine the effects of drug abuse and alcoholism on youth violence in Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods in Ilorin. To do justice to this paper, this paper is divided into sections. The first section deals with the background to the study where the problem



statement is diagnosed, the second section deals with theoretical orientation, third section deals with methodology, the fourth section deals with the presentation of results and discussion of findings, while the last section deals with conclusion and recommendations.

Theoretical Orientations

Broken Window Theory

Drawing from the analogy of 'Window-Building', Broken Window Theory was proposed by Wilson and Kelling (1982). They propose that failure of security agencies to punish a minor offence could lead to major crime in the society. This they argued that if the first broken window in a building is not repaired, the general population who like breaking windows will assume that nobody thinks about the building and more windows will be broken. Before long, the building will have no windows. The theory postulated that if any act of illegality or criminal behaviour such as using/abusing illegal drugs and alcohol were gone unchallenged, unchecked, or not legitimately managed by the appropriate security agencies would give room for more illegality and criminal acts. The theory suggests that signs of physical disorder such as bar joints, beer parlour, open drug markets in a neighbourhood can predispose such neighbourhood to criminal behaviour including violence. Arguing that evident of these disorders in a neighbourhood can affect the effectiveness of social control mechanism put in place by the residents. Hence, lack of social control makes the neighbourhood prone to social disorder activities such as bar joints (public drinking), gambling (e.g Nairabet), and brothel homes (prostitution). Consequently, this disadvantaged neighbourhood attracts illegal commercial criminal enterprises such as drug dealing and elevates further the level of youth violence in the neighbourhood.

Methodology

This section discusses the research techniques as well as the research procedure adopted in this study. It is important to know that there are different types of research design. However, for the purpose of this work, descriptive research design is adopted. Owing to non-availability of the population figure of the research setting, hence Cochran formula of sampling size was employed. This was adopted to determine the sampling frame for this study. The formula by Cochran (1977). Assumed prevalence of the problem = 50% (maximum variability). Confidence level = 99%; Z-Score = 2.326; Margin error = 0.05; P = prevalence rate (50%); q = margin of error (50%); n = 541.

Multiple sampling techniques were used, i.e. making use of more than one method. These methods

include stratified sampling, judgemental sampling and purposive sampling method adopted for the selection of study area and the respondents. The researcher, therefore, grouped the city into strata (Socially Advantaged Neighbourhoods and Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods). Areas such as Taiwo, Tanke, Fate, Adewole, Basin, Unity, Post office, Maraba, and Sabo-Oke constitute the Socially Advantaged Neighbourhoods because of basic and social amenities provided in these neighbourhoods (in terms of security, health care center, adequate electricity and industries) and low incidence of violence recorded in these areas. While Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods lacks basic amenities such as good road network, poor or inadequate health care facilities, poor electricity and dilapidated buildings. These areas include Oke-Andi, Opomalu, Oke-suna, Oloje, Idiape, Isale-Oja, Agaka, Adabata, Gambari and Ita-Ajia and Okelele. Thus, using stratified sampling, the researcher selected respondents from Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods. Certain factors were put into cognizance before the choice of this area. Primarily, it provides the ideal place for the research in view of the high incidence of youth violence. Secondly, these SDNs cut across the three local governments in Kwara central and have enough population for the study of youth violence. These respondents constitute the ones living in the violent prone areas of Ilorin (Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods) and are readily available. The population of the study is only limited to residents of these areas who are believed to have experienced, witnessed or victims of youth violence. Therefore, the study adopted judgemental sampling to select ten (10) respondents believed to have more knowledge on the incidence of youth violence in Ilorin metropolis. Among these ten respondents were three divisional police officers of A, B, and C division and the PPRO of Kwara state police command. It also includes the four traditional heads (Baloguns) in the traditional core areas and secretary to the state government and Special Adviser to the governor on security in Kwara state.

Consequently, by virtue of the descriptive nature of the research, no single instrument has what it takes to gather the data required for the study; hence, a combination of the questionnaire, interview, and personal observation was employed. The primary source of data includes data collected with the aid of questionnaire and in-depth interview. The questionnaire contains both open and close-ended questions. The researcher used open-ended questions because it has the quality of extracting in-depth information regarding the lifestyle that could predispose one to violence. The questionnaire consisted of three (3) sections. Section A is on the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, such age, gender, monthly income, employment status, family type, and marital status. Section B contains questions of an individual description of



their neighbourhood. Section C includes the question of neighbourhood characteristics and perceived causes of youth violence. Those who could not write and read were assisted to fill their questionnaire by the researcher and his assistants.

In addition to questionnaire method, In-depth Interview method was used to elicit information from the respondents. Only 10 respondents (The Baloguns and The Police Officers) were interviewed with the use of local and English languages respectively. The secondary sources of data collection include relevant information collected through Textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazines consulted. The review focused on different areas that revolve around the area of study. Descriptive statistics such as frequency table and a percentage was used for the description of respondents. The hypothesis formulated were tested using chi-square measurement, while the qualitative data collected through IDI were analyzed using manual content analysis.

Presentation and Analysis of Result

The analysis and the presentation of this study were based on the correctly filled and returned questionnaire conveniently administered to 541 respondents in Socially Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods of Ilorin. In all 500 questionnaires were correctly filled and retrieved (i.e 92% return rate). Therefore, the analysis was done based on the retrieved questionnaires. Perhaps, among the problem encountered is the difficulty in persuading the respondents to fill the questionnaire owing to respondent's poor attitude. This problem was addressed by employing some research assistants in the neighbourhoods.

Table 1: Description of Neighbourhood

How would you describe your neighbourhood?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Economically poor and densely populated	91	24.7
Economically poor, dispersed settlement and neglected neighbourhood (in terms of security and infrastructure)	63	17.1
Economically poor, densely populated, dispersed settlement and neglected neighbourhood (in terms of security and infrastructure)	186	50.4
Densely populated, dispersed settlement and neglected neighbourhood (in terms of security and infrastructure), but economically buoyant	29	7.9
No response	131	
Total	500	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2017.

Table 1 above shows the respondents description of their neighbourhood and experience of violence in such neighbourhood in Ilorin metropolis. From the table, 91 (24.7%) of the respondents described their

neighbourhood to be economically poor and densely populated, among these respondents 63(17.1%) described their neighbourhood to be economically poor, dispersed settlement, and neglected neighbourhood (in terms of security and infrastructure), and majority of the respondents 186 representing 50.4% of the study population described their neighbourhood to be economically poor and densely populated but dispersed settlement and also neglected in terms of availabilities of security and infrastructure, while only 29 respondents corresponding with the 7.9% of the study population described their neighbourhood to be densely populated, dispersed settlement, neglected (both in infrastructure and security availability) but economically buoyant. This implies that majority of the neighbourhoods in Ilorin are densely populated, economically poor, and marginally neglected in terms of availabilities of security and infrastructures. While it can be suggested that non-availabilities of security in some of these neighbourhoods are attributed to the lack of economic infrastructure in the areas.

Table 2: Experience of Youth Violence

Is your neighbourhood safe from youth violence?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Yes	98	21.5
Not really, you have to be careful	126	27.7
No	231	50.8
No response	45	
Total	500	100
Is youth violence more common in your neighbourhood?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Yes	287	62.8
No	82	17.9
Don't know	88	19.3
No response	43	
Total	500	100
In the past 90 days, did you notice violence in this neighbourhood?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Yes	245	57.4
No	143	33.5
Don't know	39	9.1
No response	73	
Total	500	100
How often do you think violence do occur in your neighbourhood?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Often	146	33.6
Very often	106	24.4
Not often	171	39.3
Very very often	12	2.8
No response	65	
Total	500	100
In the past 12 months, were there groups that used violence against other groups in your neighbourhood?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Yes, frequently	119	23.8
Yes, occasionally	227	45.4
No, never	94	18.8
No response	60	



Total	500	100
In comparison to last year, how would you describe the level of youth violence in your neighbourhood?	Frequency	Valid Percentage
Greatly increased	32	7.2
Decreased a bit	216	48.4
Increased a bit	50	11.2
Greatly, decreased	52	11.7
At the same level	32	7.2
Don't know	64	14.3
No response	54	
Total	500	100

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2017.

The table 2 above shows that, 98 respondents equivalent to 21.5% of the study population affirmed that their neighbourhood is safe from youth violence, and only 126(27.7%) of the respondents affirmed that their neighbourhood is not really safe from youth violence and someone has to be careful, while majority of the respondents 231 corresponding with 50.8% of the respondents affirmed that their neighbourhood is not safe from youth violence. Thus, this implies that majority of the respondents experience or witness the occurrence of youth violence in their various neighbourhoods which agree to the fact that majority of the respondents (50.4%) had earlier described their neighbourhood not only to be economically poor and densely populated but dispersed settlement and also neglected in terms of availabilities of security and infrastructure (see table 1).

From the table above, confirming the occurrence of violence in various neighbourhoods of Ilorin, 287 respondents constituting the majority and corresponding to about 62.8% of the study population agreed or affirmed that incidence of youth violence is more common in their neighbourhood as compared to only 82(17.9%) and 88 (19.3%) of the respondents that affirmed that said no and don't know respectively. Also confirming the incidence of youth violence in Ilorin metropolis, in the table, 245 respondents equivalent to about 57.4% of the study population said in the last 90 days they had experienced several incidents of youth violence in their neighbourhood, as against the 143(33.5%) and 39(9.1%) of the respondents that said no and don't know respectively.

The table further revealed that 119(23.8%) and 227(45.4%) of the respondents said yes, frequently and yes occasionally respectively to affirmed that in the past 12 months there were groups of youth that uses violence against other groups in their neighbourhood, while only 94(18.8%) of the respondents said there were no such groups in their neighbourhoods. This conforms with the fact that majority of the respondents 186 representing 50.4% of the study population described their neighbourhood to be economically poor, densely populated, dispersed settlement and also neglected in terms of availabilities of security and infrastructure (see table 1). Corroborating the above

position, some respondents 146(33.6%), 106(24.4%) and 12(2.8%) said the incidence of youth violence do occur in their various neighbourhoods often, very often and very very often respectively, while only 171 equivalent to 45.4% of the respondents said not often. This implies that the incident of youth violence cut across all neighbourhoods but not at the same rate, while this can be understood from the table 1 when majority of the respondents 186 representing 50.4% of the study population described their neighbourhood to be economically poor, densely populated, dispersed settlement and neglected in security and infrastructure wise.

In other to ascertain whether the incidence of youth violence is increasing or decreasing in Ilorin metropolis. The table 3 above revealed that 32(7.2%) of the respondents said the level of youth violence in their neighbourhood greatly increased in comparison to last year, 50(11.2%) of the respondents said it increased a bit, and 216(48.4%) of the respondents said the incidence of youth violence has decreased a bit in comparison to last year, 52(11.7%) of the respondents said it has decreased greatly, while only 32(7.2%) of the respondents said it neither decrease nor increase and 64(14.3%) respondents said they do not know.

Table 3: Perceived Factors Responsible For Youth Violence in Ilorin

Variables	Frequency					Total
	S.A	A	U	S. D	D	
Youth in this neighbourhood are poor and lack legitimate means of income	319 72.3%	72 16.3%	14 3.2%	18 4.1%	18 4.1%	441 100.0%
Most young people in this neighbourhood are uneducated and are unemployed leading to their involvement in violence	216 48.5%	143 32.1%	37 8.3%	23 5.2%	26 5.8%	445 100.0%
This neighbourhood is a hideout for youth gangs as a result of its unplanned structures	157 36.2%	160 36.9%	52 12.0%	24 5.5%	41 9.4%	434 100.0%
Most young people in this neighbourhood are not willing to help the security agency with information because of fear of victimization	115 25.7%	250 55.9%	39 8.7%	15 3.4%	28 6.3%	447 100.0%
There is no sign of security patrol in this neighbourhood	122 27.7%	94 21.4%	83 18.9%	83 18.9%	58 13.2%	440 100.0%

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2017

Table 3 above discusses the people's perception of the major factors responsible for the incidence of youth violence in Ilorin metropolis. From the table, the majority of the respondents (319) constituting about 72.3% of the study population strongly agreed



that youth in their neighbourhood are poor and lack legitimate means of income thus sending them into the world of violence and 72(16.3%) of the respondents also agreed. While 36(8.2%) of the respondents stated otherwise by strongly disagreed, and only 14(3.2%) of the respondents were undecided. Supporting this position as shown in the table above, majority of the respondents 216(48.5%) and 143(32.1%) respondents strongly agreed and agreed that most young people in their neighbourhood are uneducated and unemployed leading to their involvement in violence against 23(5.2%) and 26(5.8%) respondents that strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, while 37(8.3%) respondents were undecided.

The table further revealed that 160(36.9%) and 157(36.2%) respondents agreed and strongly agreed that their neighbourhood is a hideout for youth gangs to perpetrate violence as a result of its unplanned structures, against 41(9.4%) and 24(5.5%) respondents that disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively, while 52(12.0%) respondents were undecided. This percentage collaborate the percentage in the previous table 3 where 119(23.8%) and 227(45.4%) of the respondents respectively affirmed that there were groups of youth that uses violence against other groups in their neighbourhood frequently and occasionally, and also in tandem with table 1 where the majority of the respondents 186 representing 50.4% of the study population described their neighbourhood to be economically poor, densely populated, dispersed settlement and also neglected in terms of availabilities of security and infrastructure (see table 1 and 2).

Confirming the findings above, a divisional police officer in Ilorin during the in-depth interview says:

Almost every neighbourhood in Ilorin metropolis has a black spot for youth gangs who perpetrate violence, and these black spots are not easily accessible to the police. In these black spots they do all sort of things like smoking marijuana ('Igbo'), gums, inhaling latrine pits, rape young girls and causing the disturbance in the neighbourhoods.

Table 3 also shows that 250(55.9%) and 15(25.7%) agreed and strongly agreed respectively that most young people in their neighbourhood are not willing to help the security agencies with information because of fear of victimization and thus promoting violence, while 28(6.3%) and 15(3.4%) respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively against 39(8.7%) respondents that were undecided. Confirming the position that youth are not willing to

help police with information is the fact that 94(21.4%) and 122(27.7%) agreed and strongly agreed that there is no sign of security patrol in their neighbourhoods, while 58(13.2%) and 83(18.9%) respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively, and only 83(18.9%) respondents were undecided. This clearly revealed that among the factors contributing to the incidence of violence in some neighbourhoods are owing to lack of cooperation from the people to assist police with adequate information coupled with the fact that in most of these neighbourhoods there is no sign of security patrol.

Test of Hypothesis

Having found that majority of the respondents affirmed to the prevalence of youth violence in their respective neighbourhoods as shown in table 2. Hence, to statistically determine whether some neighbourhood factor can be associated to the upsurge of youth violence in Ilorin based on respondents' perception, some neighbourhood factor were selected and tested against the prevalence of

Table 4: Relationship between Access to Drug and Youth Violence

Variable	Youth in this neighbourhood have access to drugs leading to violence					Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	
Youth in this neighbourhood have access to drugs leading to violence	44	28	7	1	13	93
	20.4%	16.2%	33.3%	14.3%	76.5%	21.4%
Youth in this neighbourhood have access to drugs leading to violence	54	49	11	3	2	119
	25.0%	28.3%	52.4%	42.9%	11.8%	27.4%
Youth in this neighbourhood have access to drugs leading to violence	118	96	3	3	2	222
	54.6%	55.5%	14.3%	42.9%	11.8%	51.2%
Youth in this neighbourhood have access to drugs leading to violence	216	173	21	7	17	434
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table shows that 54.6% of respondents who strongly agreed that youth in their neighbourhoods have access to drugs leading to violence reported that their neighbourhoods were not safe from youth violence. Also, this group represented about 55.5% of those who agreed with this assertion. On the other hand, 76.5% of the respondents who disagreed that most youths in their neighbourhoods have access to drugs leading to violence to youth violence believed that their neighbourhoods were safe from youth violence while about 14.3% of them strongly disagreed.

**Table 5: Crosstabulation of access to hard drug and youth involvement in violence Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	47.313 ^a	8	.000
N of Valid Cases	434		

SPSS Output X2 = 47.313, df=8, p<0.001

In order to test the significance of this observation, chi-square test of association was employed. The result as shown in the chi-square table above ($X^2 = 47.313$, $df=8$, $p<0.001$) shows that the observation is significant at 5% level. This implies that the observation in the cross tabulation is valid. Therefore, it can be inferred based on the finding that access to hard drugs is the leading cause of youth violence in Ilorin metropolis. Thus, the alternative hypothesis is hereby accepted, which implies that there is a significant statistical relationship between access to hard drugs (such as marijuana, codeine, rochies, skunk etc.) and prevalence of youth violence in Ilorin metropolis. This finding agrees with a police officer in Ilorin while responding to the question on the causes of violence among the youth in Ilorin during the in-depth interview.

He stated that when police arrested some of the boys (youth) involved in the fighting and burning of several houses on the 25th of April 2015, most of them were not in their right state of mind, they could not even write a clear statement on their own. Police realized that virtually all of them had used hard drugs and alcohols.

Similarly, another respondent while counting his own experience of violence in his neighbourhood said:

They embarrass people anyhow without regard for their personality especially when they are drunk, "imagine I was driving home one evening when some boys most of them consuming alcohol and smoking cannabis publicly barricade the road extorting money from the motorist, i came down to talk to them to pave way hoping that they would respect my traditional status but instead one of them told me "you are just a Balogun of those who fed you, its better you live us alone". I immediately ask my driver to turn around and had to take a very long route home.

Thus, it could be asserted based on the findings that access to hard drugs and alcoholism among unemployed youth are major factors that send them into the world of violence.

Discussion of Findings

According to World Report on Violence (2002), drug and alcohol abuse is a risk factor for violence

and an important situational factor that can precipitate violence. Alcohol is strongly associated with increased risk of aggression, physical assault, family violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), assault, youth violence, bullying, elder abuse/neglect, suicide and intentional self-harm. In line with this report, the findings of the study revealed that 55.5% and (54.6%) of respondents Agreed and strongly agreed that youth in their neighbourhoods have access to hard drugs and alcohol reported that their neighbourhoods were not safe from youth violence. Therefore, this study did not only revealed that youth in some neighbourhoods have access to hard drug and alcohol but further revealed that there is an evidence of a significant statistical relationship between access to hard drugs and youth violence ($p<0.001$). This finding confirms the opinion of (Ekpenyong, 2012) who stated that despite the intervention NGOs and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Nigeria to curb the widespread of hard drugs, drug abuse is on the upsurge with over 40% of students abusing various types of drugs. Majority of school dropouts because of drug abuse are found in shopping centres and other public spaces loitering and participating in other forms of criminal activities including violence. This further reinforces the report of National Institute on Drug Abuse (2010), that alcohol is the most abused psychoactive drug in the United States with approximately 90% of students using it before they leave high school. In Nigeria, a report by NAFDAC (2008) found that alcohol is also the most commonly abused drug with about 61% of the population engaging in its use. This confirms the assertion of Adeyemo et al., (2013), that youth syndicate indulge in dangerous drugs, alcoholism, and smoking which trigger them into violent acts and posed threat to national security.

Ultimately, the finding is in consonance with numerous studies that have found a relationship between access to hard drugs and alcoholism and involvement in violent activities. According to Feucht (1996), a study in the US found that over 80 percent of people arrested for violent crimes tested positive for illegal drugs at the time of their apprehension. Similarly, Siegel and McCormick, (2006) Corrections Canada survey of over 6,000 inmates who are violent offenders, found that 48 percent admitted to using illegal drugs at the time of their offence.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this research, the study concludes that nefarious and criminal activities committed by youths in Ilorin metropolis are owing to various neighbourhood characteristics. Therefore,



the study concludes that the chemistry between various neighbourhood factors was responsible for youth violence in Ilorin metropolis. Such interaction includes the relationship between access to hard drug and alcohol on one hand and cultural structure, an unwillingness of people to help police with information, and lack of security patrol in the neighbourhoods on the other hand.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made.

- i. In order to ameliorate and prevent youth violence, efforts must be made by the government to encourage healthy attitudes and behaviour in children and young people in order to protect them as they grow up. Development of social programmes that will emphasize competency and social skills aims to change attitudes and behaviour in individuals who have already become violent or are at risk of harming themselves.
- ii. Strengthening of community based policing. Coordinating councils comprising community leaders and traditional chiefs, and interagency forums comprising of local administrator (e.g vigilante) and other security agents (Police force, NDLEA) should be established to involve wide range of people, including magistrates, community health and social workers, members of women's groups, staff of schools, and the local religious and political authorities. Typically, their functions will include sharing information and expertise, identifying problems in the provision of services, and promoting community awareness and action on one or several types of violence and drug use. Thus, community-based efforts will be geared toward raising public awareness about drug and alcohol use and violence, stimulating community action, and providing for the care and support of victims.
- iii. Major government spending and private investment must be concentrated in the socially disadvantaged areas. Such spending must be on programme physically situated in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. As this will create more employment opportunities, which will

consequently reduce pressure on socially advantaged residents.

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