

# Assessing The Impact of Community Based Participation on Drugs Abuse Control Among Nigerian Youths. North-East Zone in Focus

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19926251>

Article History	Abstract
Original Research Article	<p><i>The research topic, assessing the Impact of Community Based participation on Drugs Abuse Control among Nigerian Youths; North-East Zone in Focus. Drugs abused among Nigeria youths have become a raising thing of concern where by all stake holders have been preaching against it because it serves as genesis of so many crimes such as insecurity. That is one of the main reason targeted in other to unveiling the efforts made by communities in combatting drugs abuse among youth. The sampled population of three hundred respondents (300) where selected at random from six states of north eastern Nigeria and been analyzed using tables based on simple percentages. The main objective of this study work is the involvement of community in drugs abuse control among Nigerian youths in other to avoid other catastrophe that may emerge as the result of the menace mostly associated with criminal act. The researchers developed the research by using the available both primary and secondary methods of data collections. The administration of questionnaires to respondent deployed in sourcing information concerning the topic as first-hand information. While, text books, internet material, journal, newspapers and magazines are used for data generation in term of secondary method. The functionalist theory was used as developed by Emile Durkheim 1915, in adding more value and relevancy to the research. In conclusion, the major findings reveals drugs abused among Nigeria youths contributed to increase in insecurity in Nigeria. The researchers recommends among others that more tax should added on substance that are mostly abuse by youths, in other to discourage them from partaking in drugs.</i></p> <p><b>Key Words:</b> Drug Abuse, Youths, Communities, Participation, Control.</p>
Received: 08-03-2026	
Accepted: 15-04-2026	
Published: 30-04-2026	
<p>Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.</p> <p><b>Citation:</b> ILIYA SIMON PUKUMA; MOMSIRI MAIGARI BENEDICT &amp; UMAR ILIYA. (2026). Assessing The Impact of Community Based Participation on Drugs Abuse Control Among Nigerian Youths. North-East Zone in Focus. UKR Journal of Economics, Business and Management (UKRJEBM), 2(4), 460-467.</p>	

## Introduction

Drug abuse is defined as the consumption of drugs on a greater scale up to such an extent that leads to physical, psychological and social harm (Pallen 2001). This is particularly prevalent among young people where it can lead to serious consequences, including mental illness and in some cases even death. Furthermore, Salra Lamb et al. According to (1998), the need for integrated supportive and rehabilitation services in response to the prevalence of mental illness and physical impairment caused by substance abuse.

“A drug is any chemical substance that alters mood, perception or consciousness and is misused, to the apparent detriment of society in many

people’s minds the most important and dangerous quality of a drug is its addictiveness” (Laurie, 1971).

Hence, to curb the abuse of drugs, communities need to increase or contribute their quarter in checkmating the spray of substance abuse especially among youths who are more exposed and vulnerable in the society. Furthermore, drugs abuse put the country workforce destined for downfall. Drugs abuse among has cost many damages to the entire institution Nigeria, because without youth the workforce is always affected.

Colhoun et al (1994) are of the opinion that the drugs abuse problem can be communicated with every member in the community on its prevention to safeguard the youth to abstain from drugs abuse as the culture of Africa.

### **Background to the Study**

Drug abuse has been defined as the predilection to use substances—legal or illegal—in a way that can damage an individual's physical, mental, social or intellectual well-being (Pallen, 2001). Drug denotes substances, other than food that in small amounts alters the structure or function of a living organism (Kenneth et al., 1997). These substances interfere with normal physiological and psychological processes when used inappropriately, thereby causing health & social outcome.

Young people have the highest propensity for substance abuse because they are at a developmental stage where attitudes, behaviors and identity formation is an active process. At this stage they are more likely to be influenced by outside sources such as, peer pressure and role models – particularly one which includes drugs and alcohol. For this reason, the exposure to these environments promotes practices of taking risks and maintaining substance abuse, which increases the chance of harm in the long term.

Drugs abuse is a social problem among many youths in the community, therefore, the need to involve community members in checkmating the proliferation and abuse of substance is very significant in order to minimize the victims in the society through awareness and sensitization. The growing insecurity in Nigeria is connected with drug abuse because most of the criminals perpetrate the act under the influence of drugs in other words to be fearful.

Communities need a targeted prevention plan to combat illicit substance abuse crime. As noted by Haward et al. (2003) Community-based programmes reinforce social norms against drug use across multiple settings (e.g., families, schools, and the wider community). Examples of integrated multi-component interventions that include media awareness campaigns and policy approaches, especially to reduce access to alcohol and tobacco, are more effective when combined with appropriate school and family-based efforts. This integrated approach improves prevention efforts by tackling both environmental and individual factors.

### **Problem statement of the study**

The prevailing and pathetic menace in our country Nigeria is the speedy escalations of drugs abuse among youths in which the number is alarming and if allowed unchecked it will continue to eat deeply into the fabrics of this nation. The number of mentally derelict persons roaming the streets are mostly connected with drugs abuse mostly youths and if

such a problem is allowed unchecked it will pose a great challenge to this country Nigeria. The future leaders of tomorrow are being damaged today (youths), in the same vein, most of the criminality that has been perpetuated by youths are under the influence of drugs. To curtail the wide spread of drugs abuse among Nigeria youth, a community based approach is significant.

According to A.S Smith (1978) said that “Drug abuse may affect one's learning as well as cognition and personality such effects add greatly to the burdens of managing and learning. Also unusually memory gaps, uncharacteristic clumsiness, inability to reason and inclination to be quarrelsome and aggressive”.

### **Significance of the study**

The study is very important because it will bring sanity in our communities and produce more oriented youths that are free from drugs in order to saddle the responsibility of the community in the future. Therefore, local community will be involving so as to know the need for helping relevant authorities in prevention of drugs abuse in Nigeria through educating and interaction at local level. This will reduce the number of drugs abuse and traffickers since the problem will be solved or reduced to barest minimum at community levels. The study will also help in actualizing Government effort towards achieving its vision 2025 national drugs law plan.

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is on the impact of community participation on drugs abuse control among youths in Nigeria, based on this, the researchers will focus only on North-Eastern Nigeria, within the period of twelve months.

### **Objectives of the study**

The main objectives of the study is to assess the role of community on drugs abuse control in Nigeria with reference to North-Eastern Nigeria, while the specific are:

- (i) To uncover community based control effort in drug abuse control
- (ii) To assess the medium through which local communities deployed in preventing drugs abuse among youths.
- (iii) To determine drug abuse persistence despite the measure taken by Government and communities.
- (iv) To reveal the relationship between drugs abuse and increase in insecurity in Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

- i. Do communities involved in drug abuse prevention?
- ii. What are the mechanisms that local community employed in drug abuse control?

- iii. Why drug abuse persists despite the measures taken in the society?
- iv. What are relationship between drug abuse and the increase in insecurity?

## Review of Related Literature Review and Theoretical Frame Work

### Literature review

Drugs abuse has many definitions; we can define it has taken the substance without prescription or inappropriate. While, Dr. Des Corrigan, from the School of Pharmacy in Trinity College, Dublin describes a drug as: "A chemical which causes changes in the way the human body functions, either mentally, physically or emotionally." (Corrigan 1994).

### International Efforts on Prevention of Drug Abuse

Recognizing the ever-increasing scale and global nature of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, international actions to control and prevent them have developed dynamically at different times. Among them there is the importance of implementing priority international legal instruments like the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention, and also these current ones such as the Convention on Psychotropic Substances and above all else together with its additional protocol against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Backstopped by these global frameworks, there are also regional initiatives including the SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking; the Eastern Africa Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking; the African Common Position on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and the African Plan of Action for Control of Drugs and Crime. It has also led to the establishment of institutional mechanisms designed to reinforce global governance, with the roles performed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in monitoring, policy coordination and promoting international cooperation on drug-related matters.

### Nigeria government effort on drugs abuse control

NDCMP 2021–2025: the National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) 2021–2025, which is a multi-dimensional response plan to the problems of drug trafficking and its associated activities in Nigeria including production and cultivation, is conceptualized with an unparalleled level of comprehensiveness. The Plan incorporates insights and lessons learned from previous policy frameworks, representing a historic step forward in establishing a coherent, whole-of-government, evidence-driven approach to substance use issues at the national level. Through the

incorporation of new initiatives and government institutions, the Plan aims to strengthen control throughout the country.

Central to the NDCMP are specialized units targeting drug production and supply, and enhancing investigation and enforcement skills within relevant agencies. These measures are aimed at enhancing professionalism, technical proficiency and operational efficiency of police forces. There is also a new governance and coordination pillar to strengthen coordination among MDAs as well as monitoring and evaluation systems. This method is anticipated to facilitate a higher level of policy consistency and uphold measurements-based decision-making and lobbying related to drug control issues.

### Drug Abuse and Youths

Generally, the term youth reflects many definitions partly dependent on the availability of social circumstances in different societies. Youth is traditionally defined as the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, includes both male and female youth who are developing the ability for self-reliance assumed in adults (National Youth Development Policy 1996. The World Book Encyclopedia (1991), in a same way, characterizes youth as people who are no longer children yet have not reached full adulthood; it states something to the effect of 'social maturity happens at that moment when an individual acts independently and accepts the responsibility of their action'. For this reason, this developmental stage is extremely critical as young people tend to be more prone to risk-taking behaviours which include substance abuse. Adolescent drug use causes physical and psychological problems ranging from anxiety, fatigue and depression as a result of impaired motor coordination and causing traffic accidents. There is also the problem of withdrawal symptoms like vomiting, muscle cramps, and convulsions; as well as tolerance and dependency. At such times, the transmission of infections like HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other STIs through sexual contact or sharing contaminated needles becomes more likely. Substance abuse has also been connected to a higher tendency in participating in high-risk sexual activities, and in extreme cases death as a result of overdose. Substance use, as per the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2002), has temporary effects including euphoria, increased sensory perception, increased heart rate, Increased blood pressure and decreased need for sleep which places a greater potential to addiction.

The Drug Use in Nigeria Survey (DUNS) gives factual evidence as to the extent of substance use in Nigeria showing a lifetime prevalence rate of 14.4% approx 14.3 million people aged between ages 15 and 64 years revealing drug use within a one-year period. This number is far above the world average of 5.6% as reported in the World Drug

Report. Cannabis is still the most widely use drugs in Nigeria with about 10.6 million users, and since opioid, mainly through non-medical use of prescription medicines and cough syrups more than 4.6million citizens affected by it. This widespread consumption has led to major social problems such as health risks, crime and general destabilisation of societies which justifies the search for more specific intervention tools.

### **Community Involvements in Drugs Control**

Community focused intervention with active local participation is important supplement to government forces for the aim of controlling production, distribution and drug trafficking as Zunyou Wu (2012) noted. Because of this, complex issues will require multisectoral approaches since no one strategy alone can sufficiently address the complexity they embody. This view is in accordance with the Functionalism perspectives which describe society as a system whose parts are functional for the stability and progress of society. In this context, the community can be seen as an important subsystem that facilitates collective action to tackle social issues (e.g., substance abuse) through local solutions.

### **Theoretical frame work**

#### **Functionalist Theory**

Émile Durkheim (1915) contributed the functionalist school of thought to the systematic analysis of society as an organological system in which constituent institutions maintain balance by serving vital social functions essential for stability. From this perspective institutions like religion, education and the family serve important functions that maintain social order and continuity. Functionalists contend that the parts of a society function to maintain an equilibrium in the whole and when things are out of whack, social mechanisms restore satisfied as best they can. This equilibrium is largely created by the socialisation of individuals into common values and norms. Thus, in terms of those people who abuse drugs, this viewpoint suggests that preventing drug abuse involves all parts of society working together. Interaction with other institutions, especially since communities are the basic segment of the social system should occur in order to address substance abuse problem responsibility and as a whole.

Similarly, Craig Calhoun et al. That is, Giddens (1994) argues that social structures are interdependent and compares society to some biological organism whose various parts differentially contribute to the functioning of the whole. Social systems are made up of interdependent components that support and depend on one another, and if one is dysfunctional it can destabilize society as a whole. In this sense, tackling drug abuse involves the participation of all components of society: families, communities, state

agencies and non-governmental organizations. Every unit needs to play its part well: families in instilling values and discipline; communities in enforcing social norms and monitoring behavior; institutions in executing policies and interventions. Stephen Moore (2001) supports this by arguing that the family is fundamental to society and if it fails, social problems like substance abuse are likely to occur. Therefore, a comprehensive system to prevent drug abuse in children and adolescents and promote stable healthy society is required.

### **Methodology**

#### **Research Methodology**

This section explain which methods and instruments used in this research work. The method of data collection and analysis, the item to be analyzed encompasses research design, population of study, sample size and sampling techniques instrument used for data collection and techniques of data analysis.

#### **Research Design**

The study adopt the survey design and obtained the primary and secondary data for the study. This method allowed the researchers drawn a conclusion based on the sampled opinion obtained from entire population and projects.

#### **Method of Data Analysis**

Data collected analyzed using cross tabulations and percentages method. 300 respondents are chosen from states.

#### **Population of the Study**

As Rwegoshora (2006) defines, target population is the entire group of individuals from which relevant data are required to address the questions at hand in any study. It includes all the units or respondents that are considered to be able to provide relevant information around the research issue. Our target population in the current study are major local stakeholders including community members, local government officials, religious leaders and youth. It will focus on selected States (Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Bauchi, Taraba and Yobe) of Nigeria as a total population comprising 300 respondents so as to ensure representativeness and relevance with the context.

#### **Sample Size**

Rwegoshora (2006) said, Sample is the part of the population which is studied in order to make reference about the whole population. however, for the purpose of realistic and thorough research the size sampled for the study is 50 respondents were chosen from each state making a total of 300 respondents to represent the population.

### Sample Technique

The researchers employed the use of simple random sampling techniques.

### Method of Data Collection

For the purpose of this study, both the primary and secondary method will be employed. A questionnaire is designed to conduct the sourcing of information.

### Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed using cross tabulations and percentages. Determinants of success impact of community participation in drugs abuse control in Nigeria. North-eastern Nigeria in focus. Three (300) questionnaires will be distributed across the six states. All analysis will be carried with the aid of simple percentages SPSS version for windows.

### Data presentation and analysis

*Table 4.1 Popular substance that are being abused in your area by youths*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Alcohol	200	66.6
Codeine	5	1.6
Tramadol	50	16.6
Marijuana(wee-wee)	45	15
Total	300	100

*Source: field survey 2025*

From table 4.1 above, it has been deduced that majority of the respondents which is 200 representing 66.6% believed that the popular substance been abused is alcohol. While on 5 respondents representing 2 percent said codeine is the substance abused in there are. 50 respondents representing 16.6 percent of the total respondents said tramadol is the popular drugs been abused and 45 respondents representing 15 percent believed that marijuana is the common drugs been abuse by the youths in their area.

*Table 4.2 community based vanguard on drugs abused control in your area*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	300	100
No	-	-
Total	300	100

*Source: field survey 2025*

Deducing from the above table, it has been clearly stated that 300 respondents representing 100 percent said they do have community vanguard for drugs control in their locality. With this percent we accept the facts that most of community in north east have been helping in combing drugs abused in their area.

*Table 4.3 ways through which drugs abused is been broadcast*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Radio	200	66.6
Television	80	26.6
Print media	20	6.6
Total	300	100

*Source: field survey 2025*

From the table above, is been indicates that majority of the respondents which is 200 representing 66.6 percent said they get to know about drugs abused through radio, while 80 respondents representing 26.6 percent said they got to know it through television while only 20 respondents representing 6.6 percent said they know it through print media. We can conclude that government and stake holders to intensified campaign against drugs abused through radio because is the medium that community especially youths are been get to know about drugs abuse.

*Table 4.4. Negative effects of drugs abused that you know among youths.*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Madness	150	50
Death	50	16.6
Insecurity	50	16.6

Disrespect	50	16.6
Total	300	100

Source: field survey 2025

From table above is been shown that 150 respondents representing 50 percent of the total respondents said effects of drugs abused do resulted to madness, 50 respondents representing 16.6 percent said it lead to death, while other respondents opines that insecurity is one of the negative effect of drugs abused as show 50 respondents representing 50 percent are of that opinion. Also 50 respondents representing 16.6 respondents said it causes youths to disrespect people. It is clearly shown in table above, most of the youths rooming street as mad people are as the result of drugs abuse.

Table 4.5 community based efforts on drugs abused control

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Banned on sale of substance	150	50
Collaboration with drugs officers	70	23
Community campaign	80	26.6
Total	300	100

Source: field survey 2025

Opinion from the above table shown that, majority of the respondents which 150 representing 50 percent of the total respondents opines that there is total banned of drugs popularly abused by youths in their community, while 70 respondents representing 23 percent are of the opinion that youths that are been involved in drugs abused are been reported to authority. 80 respondents representing 26.6 percent said community campaign is one of the majors taken in controlling drugs abused among youth. We can conclude that banned of substance can help in combing drugs abused in our societies.

Table 4.6 Relationship between Drugs Abused and Insecurity

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Strogly agreed	200	66.6
Agreed	30	10
Strongly disagreed	20	6.6
Disagreed	50	16.6
Total	300	100

Source: field survey 2025

Table above shown that majority of the respondents which is 200 representing 66.6 percent strongly agree that there is relationship between drugs abused and insecurity, while 30 respondents representing 10 percent agreed. 20 respondent representing 6.6 percent strongly disagreed and 50 respondents representing 16.6 percent disagreed that there no relationship between drugs abuse and insecurity in north east.

Table 4.7 community based ways through which drugs abused is been preach in other to discourage the menace

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Church	80	26.6
Mosque	90	30
Traditional	100	33
Village square	30	10
Total	300	100

Source: field survey 2025

Opinion of the respondents from the above table show that, 80 percent of the respondents representing 26.6 percent said church is an avenue through which drugs abused is been preach, while 90 respondent representing 30 percent said mosque. 100 respondent representing 33 percent of the total respondents said they been preach through traditional ways and 30 respondents representing 10 percent said they get to know about drugs abuse control though village square discussion.

Table 4.8 majors taken by community in handling those involved in drugs abuse

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Reporting the offenders	100	33

Community punishment	100	33
Rehabilitation	50	16.6
Employment	50	16.6
Total	100	100

Source: field survey 2025

From table 4.8 above, it has been deduced that 100 of total respondents representing 33 percent of the total respondents said that they do report the offenders to the appropriate authority, while 100 respondents representing 33 percent said community punishment is the way of their contributions. While 50 respondent representing 17 percent said, they offer employment in other to curtail the spray of the menace and 50 respondents represent 22 percent said they do send youths for mental rehabilitation centre. We can now agree that communities have been involving in curtailing the menace in other to keep community free from the consumption of the substance.

Table 4.9 Impact of community effort on drugs abused control

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Positive	150	50
Negative	150	50
Total	300	100

Source: field survey 2025

Depicting from the above table, 150 of the respondent representing 50 percent opines that community effort on fight against drugs abused is yielding positive result, while 150 respondent representing 50 percent opined that the fight is not yielding any positive result. With this 50-50 percent it is a fact that communities are doing their best in regard to fight against drugs abuse.

### Discussion of findings

From table 4.1 above, it has been deduced that majority of the respondents which is 200 representing 66.6% believed that the popular substance been abused is alcohol, majors should taken in reducing popularly alcohol been abused by youth. Deducing from the above table 4.2, it has been clearly stated that 300 respondents representing 100 percent said they do have community vanguard for drugs control in their locality, therefore communities in north eastern Nigeria had their various ways in combating drugs abused. From the table above 4.3 , is been indicates that majority of the respondents which is 200 representing 66.6 percent said they get to know about drugs abused through radio, From table 4.4 above is been shown that 150 respondents representing 50 percent of the total respondents said effects of drugs abused do resulted to madness, it is off grate concerned that most of our youths who are rooming street as mad people are mostly attributed to drugs related abused. Opinion from the above table 4.5 shown that, majority of the respondents which 150 representing 50 percent of the total respondents opines that there is total banned of drugs popularly abused by youths in their community, to curtail the spray of drugs abused majority of the communities banned the sale of substance. Table above shown that majority of the respondents which is 200 representing 66.6 percent strongly agreed that there is relationship between

drugs abused and insecurity, the increase in crime especially theft, banditry etc is associated with drugs abused. Opinion of the respondents from the above table show that, 80 percent of the respondents representing 26.6 percent said church is an avenue through which drugs abused is been preach, Depicting from the above table, 150 of the respondent representing 50 percent opines that community effort on fight against drugs abused is yielding positive result.

### Summary of Major Findings

1. It has been discovered that north east has community vanguard in which they have been helping in curtailing the spray of the menace
2. Religion plays a significant role in preaching against drugs abuse among Nigeria youths
3. Mass media is also been established as one of the medium through which drugs abused is been preach.
4. Increase in insecurity is as result of drugs abuse by youths, because taken the substance changes their mind sets.
5. communities also involves and report people that sales the substance that are been consumed
6. Alcohol is the major substance that are been abused mostly by youths in their respective communities.
7. Community efforts in drugs abused control among youths is yielding positive result.

### Summary

The role of community in drugs abused control in the north east Nigeria cannot be over emphasise. Drugs abuse among

Nigeria youths have been increasing daily which have been calling for concern from deferent groups. The study reveals that if nothing is been done in tackling the wide spray of drugs abused Nigeria is at verge of losing it leaders of tomorrow. To key to that fight of drugs abused communities approach is yielding result because they do embark in some policies to combat the spray of the menace.

### Conclusion

Community based efforts in combating drugs abused among Nigeria youths have been in progress at local communities and is yielding positive result, because most of the communities in north east zone have one way of the other in creating an avenue to discourage youths in taken the substance that will course havoc in their life.

### Recommendation

- i. law enforcement agencies should check mate the buying and selling of drugs that are popularly abused by youths.
- ii. Strong punishment should be label against the sellers and consumers of drugs that are been abused.
- iii. Church and mosque should be used as a medium for preaching against drugs abuse.
- iv. Youths should be given employment in other them to be distracted from drugs abused;
- v. community leaders should be directly involved in drugs abuse fight

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