

**EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM AS A STRATEGY TO CURB
DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA**

SELPHER K. CHELOTI, URSULLA A. OKOTH & ROSE N. OBAE

University of Nairobi, Department of Educational Administration and Planning, Nairobi, Kenya

ABSTRACT

In spite of the governments' effort in the fight against drug and substance abuse in Kenya, the problem is still rampant among secondary school students. The main objective was to assess the effectiveness of the school curriculum in curbing drug and substance abuse (DSA) among secondary school students. Literature relating to school curriculum areas and curbing DSA in schools was reviewed. The study employed descriptive survey design. The study sample consisted of 35 head teachers and 407 students. Questionnaires were used to collect Data from head teachers and students. Content validity and reliability of the research instruments was ascertained. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse data. The findings show that content on DSA in the curriculum was inadequate. Co-curricular activities (sports, drama, music and poems) were more effective in curbing DSA. The study concluded that curriculum as an administrative strategy for curbing DSA was not effective. The study recommended that content on DSA in the school curriculum should be enhanced to include causes, types and effects of DSA and more time allocated to teach DSA. Head teachers should collaborate with parents, law enforcers, government agencies; NACADA, NGOs and FBOs to curb the supply and demand of drugs and substances. The Ministry of Education could review its policy on punishment and expulsion as regards to curbing drug and substance abuse among students. The paper is based on a study conducted in the year 2012 and 2013.

KEYWORDS: Curriculum, Curbing, Drug and Substance Abuse, Strategy, County