

Original Article

## Factors Influencing Substance Abuse among Commercial Motorcycle Operators in Akure Metropolis Ondo State

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### Abstract

Substance abuse is a common global phenomenon and has invaded human society as the most important social damage. The study aim was to evaluate factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcycle operators in Akure Metropolis Ondo State. A descriptive cross-sectional design was adopted to examine the factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcycle operators in Akure Metropolis. A total of 384 respondents were sampled with a multistage sampling method, data were collected from the respondents through a well-structured validated questionnaire. Data collected were summarized using frequency and percentages to answer research questions. The hypotheses were analyzed using Chi-square and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance. Findings revealed that commercial motorcycle operators in Akure Metropolis engaged in substances use and abuse due to frustrations, to boost energy and get fit for the work, to avoid problems and to think more clearly. Respondents were found to use the substance on a daily basis. Statistically, a significant difference was found between the level of respondents' education and factors influencing substance abuse,  $F(3, 380) = 54.746, p < .001$ . In conclusion, it is clear now that commercial motorcycle operators in Akure metropolis engaged in substance abuse due to availability and affordability of the substance, frustration, boosting energy and low level of education. It is therefore recommended that nurses, most especially psychiatric nurses should intensify campaign on the risk associated with substances use and abuse with the respondents.

**Key Words:** factors Influencing, Commercial Operators, Substance Abuse, Metropolis

### Introduction

Motorcycle commercial operators popularly known as Okada Riders/Bike Men have come to solve the problem of transportation in most cities across the country and unemployment in Nigeria. The use of

motorcycles for public transport became popular in Lagos in 1992, as a result of dearth of other means of public transportation in Lagos metropolis (Akande, 2009). Motorcycles riding in Akure metropolis like in other urban areas are mainly

dominated by youths. However youthful exuberances has worsened the scenario of substance abuse which led many to their early grave and some to handicap as a result of reckless driving under the influence of drugs used. Substance abuse is a common global phenomenon and has invaded human society as the most important social damage. The problem of substance abuse is growing at an explosive rate and in just over a decade it has its malevolent tentacles to almost every part of the globe surmounting almost all barriers of race, caste, creed, religion, gender, educational status and economic strata. (King & Chassin, 2014). Drugs of abuse are generally classified within three major groupings: (a) depressants, such as alcohol and opioids; (b) stimulants, such as amphetamines and cocaine; and (c) hallucinogens (Akande, 2009; Teo et al, 2009; APA, 2011; Bome, 2011; Compton et al., 2014) widely used illegal drug, and abuse of marijuana is the most common of all the substance abuse disorders involving illicit drugs (Compton et al, 2014). Substance abuse, which is the abuse of psychoactive materials that exert their major effects on the brain resulting in sedation, stimulation or change in mood of a person is a universal social problem. According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC, 2005) World Drug Report, substance abuse is a major public health problem all over the world. Thus, an estimated 208 million people or nearly 5% of the world's population between the ages of 15 and 64 years consume illegal drugs. One hundred and forty-four million people abuse cannabis (marijuana), making it the most prevalent illicit substance. Followed by amphetamine-type stimulants, opiates and cocaine. Thirty-five million used amphetamine-type stimulants, 16 million are opiates and 13 million are cocaine users (Naqshbandi, 2012). Substance abuse does not only expose the individual to major health problems but also serve as a predisposing factor for crimes. Botvin (1995) reports the death of many Nigerians home and abroad due to their involvement in drug trafficking. The need to control the supply and reduce the demand for narcotic drugs in Nigeria led to the establishment of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in January 1990 by the then Ibrahim Babangida Administration (Nyameh, Yakubu, Teru & Titus, 2013). According to Oliha (2014), most of

the Nigerian youths ignorantly depend on one form of substance or the other for their various daily activities including social, educational, political, moral, etc. Such substance or drug include narcotic: analgesics, morphine, opium, and heroin, pethidine: stimulants, cocaine, amphetamine, depressants: alcohol, barbiturates, diazepam, hallucinogens d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), mescaline, phencyclidine, psilocybin and cannabis: ganja, charas, hash oil, etc. Morakinyo et al., (2010) added that substance abuse may continue for a long period of time or lead to substance dependence, a more severe disorder associated with physiological signs of dependence (tolerance or withdrawal syndrome or a substance. People who become compulsive user lack control over their drug use. Young people who continue in the act of abusing substances often experience various forms of problems including health-related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships and involvement in social vices such as stealing, bullying, secret cult activities all these have negative consequences on family members, community and the entire society (King & Chassin, 2014). Taking drugs to feel happy, excited, friendly to the opposite sex, sexual excitements and mental alertness are the various reasons why students abused substances (Yusuf, 2010).

Accidental injury or death has been known to be associated with psychoactive substances used. Humplus *et al.*, (2008) emphasised that Alcohol contributed to 50,000 deaths per year and up to 500,000 hospital admission annually in the United Kingdom. Motorcycles have the capacity to increase the accident rate seven times than vehicle person per mile and a seventeen times fatality rate compared with motor vehicles (Sabey et al., 2007). In Nigeria, the accident and emergency units of most health facilities often have significant cases of road traffic accident victims in which motorcycles accident were prevalent.

Though several scholars have written on the substance abuse among students and other occupational groups, little is known on the use of substances among commercial motorcycle operators. Therefore, there is a need to evaluate the factors influencing the use of substances among commercial motorcycles operators in Akure Metropolis.

### Aim of the Study

The study aim was to evaluate factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcycle operators in Akure Metropolis Ondo State.

The following objectives guided the study:-

1. To identify factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcycle operators.
2. To determine the frequency of substance use among commercial motorcycle operators.

### Research Questions

1. What are the factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcycle operators?
2. How often do commercial motorcycle operators do use substance?

### Hypotheses

1. There is no statistically significant difference between respondents' level of education and factors influencing substance abuse.
2. There is no statistically significant relationship between respondents' years of experience and the frequency of substance abuse.

### Methodology

Descriptive cross-sectional design was adopted to examine the factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcycle operators in Akure Metropolis Ondo State. This study was carried out among commercial motorcycle operators in Akure Metropolis Ondo State cover by Akure south local government. The estimated population of Akure South Local Government is about 35,321 inhabitants as at 2006 census population. It is located within Ondo State in the Central Senatorial district, it is the capital of Ondo State. It has a land surface area of about 331km square, longitude 5.195 and latitude of 7.25. Majority of inhabitants are civil servants, traders and self-employed. Yoruba and local dialect are the languages spoken by the people residing in the area. Akure south is one of the 18 local government areas in Ondo State.

Multistage sampling technique was used to select the study respondents; the first stage involved the simple random selecting of the wards where the commercial motorcycle operators' parks are located. The respondents were selected using convenience sampling technique. A sample size of 384 was derived from Cochran's formula

$$N = \frac{z^2 p q}{E^2}$$

N = Sample size, Z<sup>2</sup>= 1.96<sup>2</sup>, P= level of precision of 50%, Q = 1-P, E =0.05<sup>2</sup> (constant)

The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire adopted from the literature reviewed based on the objectives of the study. The instrument consists of 25 items made up of three sections; Section A consists of demographic characteristics of the respondents, section B consists of the questions on factors influencing substance abuse each answer being scored on a 4-point scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree) while Section C consists question on the frequency of substance abused each answer being scored on yes or no response. To ascertain the validity of the instrument, the questionnaire was given to the experts to determine the face and content validity of the instrument. All the suggested corrections were corrected before the instrument was used to collect the data. The instrument reliability was determined using the test re-test method among 40 commercial motorcycle operators in another ward excluding the study centres. Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. Data were collected from the respondents with questionnaire administered to the sample population by the researchers after the informed consent was obtained from the respondents after the purpose of the study was explained to them. They were told that participation in the study is voluntary, they can withdraw from the study at will. They were informed that their information would be treated with all confidentiality. Respondents were informed that there will be no direct immediate benefit, but the study will help to improve their knowledge of the substance abuse. For the literate respondents, the questionnaire was given to them for self-completion and for the non-literate respondents, the researchers read the

questions and marked responses as guided by the questionnaire.

The data collected was analyzed, the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents were presented with descriptive statistics in form of frequency and percentage, and research questions were answered with mean and standard deviation while Chi-Square and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 for window.

### Results

Table 1 highlights the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, 42.2% of the respondents were married, 45% of the respondents had secondary education while the majority of the respondents 58.6% had working experience fall within 5-8 years. The respondents' mean age is 31 years. Table 2 shows the identified factors prompting the commercial motorcycle operators to abuse substances, factors such as availability of the

substance, ability to purchase it, peer group pressure, to increase energy for the job etc. Table 3 shows the frequency of substance used by the commercial motorcycle operators in Akure metropolis. The finding shows that the majority of the motorcycle operators in Akure metropolis 274(71.4%) used substance two times daily. Table 5 shows Chi-square analysis of the relationship between respondents' years of experience and frequency of substance used. The result shows no significant relationship between respondents' years of experience and frequency of substance used,  $X^2(4) = 6.958, P = 0.138$ . Table 6 shows a one-way ANOVA which was conducted to examine the influence of respondents' level of education on factors influencing substance abused. The result shows a statistically significant difference in the level of respondents' education and factors influencing substance abuse,  $F(3, 380) = 54.746, \rho < .001$ . Post-hoc comparisons using the Tukey HSD test revealed that respondents with primary and secondary education were significant.

**Table 1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents N= 384**

Variables	F	%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	162	42.2
Single	158	41.1
Cohabiting	58	14.6
Divorced	8	2.1
<b>Level of Education</b>		
No formal Education	30	7.8
Primary	88	22.9
Secondary	175	45.6
Tertiary	91	23.7
<b>Years of Experience</b>		
1-4	98	25.5
5-8	225	58.6
9 and Above	61	15.8

Mean age = 31 years

**Table 2 Factors Influencing Substance Abuse among the Respondents N= 384**

Variables	F	%
To boost energy	339	88.2
Peer Group	335	87.2
Family with routine alcohol intake	347	93.4
Forget about problems	308	80.2
Social environment	334	87
Thinks more clearly	322	83.9
Affordability	342	89
Recreational purposes	348	90.6
Availability	329	85.7

**Table 3 Frequency of Substance Used by the Respondents N= 384**

Variables	F	%
One time a day	34	8.9
Two times a day	274	71.4
Anytime I feel like	76	19.8

**Table 5 Chi-Square Analysis of the Relationship between Respondents' Years of Experience and Frequency of Substance Used.**

Years of Experience	Frequency of Substance Used			X <sup>2</sup>	Df	P
	Once-daily	Twice daily	Anytime I feel like			
1-4	8	77	13	6.958	4	0.138
5-8	17	158	50			
9-12	9	39	13			

**Table 6 One-way Analysis of Variance of the Respondents' Level of Education and Factors Influencing Substance Abuse.**

Sources	Df	SS	MS	F	P
Between groups	3	1016.104	338.701	54.746	.000
Within groups	380	2350.956	6.187		

MS: Mean Square, SS: Sum of Squares

## Discussion

Findings from the study revealed the major factors propelling the commercial motorcycle operators to abuse substances were because it enhanced their energy and get them fit for the work, it was affordable, and they have access to it at any time they felt like taking it. Taking substances mostly alcoholic varieties made them think more clearly and forget about their problems. However, most of the commercial motorcycle operators emphasised that they abused substances for recreational purposes. This partially consistent with the previous study by Yusuf (2010) who reported that students abused drugs to feel happy, excited friendly to opposite sex, sexual excitements and mental alertness, this disparity may be as a result of different population used in the studies, Yusuf focused majorly was on the students and this present study population focused on commercial motorcycle operators, however, students might also be part of the population. The findings of our study are similar to what was obtained by Ajibade and Colleagues (2016) on the factors influencing substance abuse among commercial motorcyclists in Ogbomoso, Oyo State Nigeria where reported abused of drugs was to fit for work, boost energy, think more straight and forget about their problems.

Finding also showed that nearly all the study respondents used substances at least once on daily basis, this finding is the major reason while accident due motorcycles are prevalent in many of accident and emergency unit of our Hospitals. This finding is in line with previous studies (Sabey et al, 2007; Palmer et al, 2009; Degenharth & Hall 2012).

In addition, the finding of this study showed that substance abuse among the commercial motorcycle operators reduced as the years of working experience increases. The substance abused ascends its peak within the range of 5-8years working experience and drastically reduced within the range of 9-12years working experience. This researchers' view may be accounted for the fact that the respondents within the range of 9-12 years working experience had matured and outgrown the youthful exuberant stage with more responsibility as the majority of this study's respondents were married.

Finally, our findings revealed that commercial motorcycle operators with low educational status

tend to abuse drugs than those with tertiary education (Table 6). The low educational status might prevent the commercial motorcycle operators from having adequate knowledge of risk and consequences associated with the substance use. This supports the findings reported by Makanjuola et al., (2009) and Kabir et al., (2011) that low level of education limited commercial motorcycle operators access to information on substance abuse.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it can conclude that commercial motorcycle operators in Akure metropolis engaged in substance abuse due to availability and affordability of the substance, frustration, boosting energy and made them fit for the work. The finding also revealed a significant difference the commercial motorcycle operators' educational status and the factors influencing the use of substances. It is worth noting a few limitations associated with the study firstly, the limited number of respondents and the areas where they are selected may not allow for extensive generalization of the study. Also, many other factors like environmental and social factors which may precipitate substance use and abuse were not mentioned. It is therefore recommended for future study to look at the perception of people on the use and abuse of substance with large sample size. Nurses, most especially psychiatric nurses should intensify campaign on the risk associated with substance use and abuse.

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