Ramifications of Drug use Among Female Adolescents in Mission Location, Mnquma Municipality, Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape Symposium

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Presentation content

• Introduction and literature
• Methods and Setting
• Findings
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Introduction

• Substance use among adolescents is an old problem which has been common on boys than girls (Observed increase of substance use among female(s) adolescents) (Litt, 2003).

• The problem of substance abuse has been gendered (Male/boys).

• This could have affected the interventions to deal with the challenge
Introduction

- The problem capitalised and increased among female adolescents.
- Today females are competitively taking substances as much as their male counterparts.
Introduction

• Disregarding gender divide, the preponderance of substance use by female adolescence just like the male adolescents has been associated with dire consequences.
Study setting

• Semi-structure interviews were conducted adhering to group specific ethical conducts.
• Total participants of 26 comprised of:
  • 7 female adolescents using substances or ex users
  • 9 parents/guardians and community members
  • 2 SAPS members
  • 2 probation officers
  • 2 Educators.
  • 3 Social Workers
  • One community leader
Findings

Common ramifications

Just like the male adolescents substance use among female has been associated with increased

• Truancy,
• School drop-out;
• Being vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other diseases
• Multiple sexual partners
• Losing family attachment
• Psychological and emotional experiences as well as fatality risk associated with substances
Findings

Vulnerability to sexual predators

- Female adolescents who use substances become a “prey” for rape and other kinds of sex related abuses.
- Elderly men with a financial ability taking advantage of tipsy female adolescents.
- Engaging in unplanned sexual endeavours that can result in unprotected sex.
Findings: Gender specific Sexual Reproductive Health

Unwanted pregnancies

• This includes not knowing the baby’s real father.

Unsafe abortions

• Going to illegal doctors
• Aborting before or after required period of pregnancy
Findings

“Unintentional” Demeaning of STD palliative services

- Substance use among female adolescents has severely affected medicinal interventions of STIs and HIV/AIDS (Department of Health, 2017).
- Female adolescents using Substances have been found visiting clinics to fetch antibiotics for STIs and STD than others.
- Disregard instructions pertaining to STIs treatments.
- They engage on sexual conduct before healing.
Conclusion and recommendations

• The government need to spend a lot of resources in preventing and discouraging the behaviour other than investing heavily in substance abuse rehabilitation centres
• Strengthening research on substance abuse among female adolescents in rural areas
• Encourage more substance abuse NGOs in the rural areas
• Initiating anti-substance use clubs in schools
Questions?
REFERENCES