Diverse roles of heterogenous drugs in facilitating crime in East London. The input of East London community.

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Introduction

• The strong connection between diverse drugs and criminal activities has long been confirmed by the research.

• Inter alia, the crimes associated are inclusive of rape, murder and theft.

• Different drugs have varying cognitive impact on users (National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)).

• Sometimes users of the same drug experience different impact on thinking process (Gould, 2010).

• Hence certain drugs can be associated with particular crimes.
Introduction

• In the past decade and a half, new potent drugs have increased.

• Some being the augmentation of the old known drugs to make them more stronger.

• These new drugs facilitated increase of dangerous crimes and cruelty.

• This study dominantly focuses on the two drugs that have been found currently troubling South African street:

  • Atypical heroin known as Nyaope/Whoonga and Crystal meth (referred to as tik).

  • Have proved to be more potent and encouraging different bizarre crimes in South Africa
Methods and Setting

Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were conducted on the following group of participants:

- 6 community members
- 10 from business entities
- 16 from government and non-governmental organizations,
Findings

New drugs and increase of ungovernable lawlessness.

• The streets are not safe anytime of the day because drug abuse related crimes.

• Participants emphasised cruelty brought by new drugs such as nyaope and tik among users.

• For most participants, there was no hope to address the increase of drug abuse associated criminal activities.

• The participants observed that SAPS is struggling to conquer the problem.
Findings

Nyaope/whoonga drug continues to produce bizarre crimes

- Participants indicated that before nyaope, HIV/AIDS facilities and ARV patients were not robbed of their anti-retro-viral drugs which is common now to concoct nyaope.

- “Robbing needy people of their medical treatments is an immoral and strange criminal act”.

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Findings

Methamphetamine (tik) remained the major influence of criminal behaviour.

- *Tik* users become uncontrollable crime machines.
- The participants confirmed that tik users are called “ghosts” because they don’t sleep roaming around the streets day and night engaging in devious criminal activities.
- Users of this drug are unable to restrain themselves from stealing and literally pilfer anything
Findings

East London business entities remained victims of crimes associated with drugs use

- Despite security surveillances, business entities have been victims of burglary.
- Tik users are paid by criminal masterminds to rob businesses.
- Several participants stated that “number of supermarket storage sites in East London have suffered from uncontrollable crimes by tik users”
Conclusion

Drug use perfidiously and perniciously affects business community and economy. Inopportuneely, the phenomenon paints a bleak picture to the international community who contribute significantly to foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country.
Questions?
REFERENCES