

Breaking the chains: exploring the socio-economic ripple effects of drug and substance use among youths in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

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Abstract

Objective

The aim of this study was to explore socioeconomic factors provoking the escalation of drug and substance use among youths in Zimbabwe.

Methods

This study utilized a qualitative methodology and exploratory design. The study employed purposive sampling and data was collected through in-depth interviews to facilitate direct engagement between the researcher and the participants. Twenty (20) youths and five (5) key informants took part in the study and data was analyzed through Thematic Content Analysis.

Results

A significant proportion of the youths in Chitungwiza turn to drug and substance use as a means of coping with social and economic stressors, including academic difficulties, poverty, anxiety and unemployment.

Conclusions

There is a significant correlation between socioeconomic factors and the rise of drug and substance addiction among youths in Chitungwiza.

Keywords: Drug and substance use, drug addiction, socio-economic factors, Chitungwiza