MEASURES

ABSTRACT

Aims: This article reviews the effects and consequences of improper drugs used among youth, in order to broaden our understanding on its effects, causes, and also to learn new preventive measures and principles that can be used to cure or mitigate the effects of such habits on people, and also to have a comprehensive literature on the problem.

YOUTH AND DRUGS: PROBLEMS,

CONSEQUENCES AND PREVENTIVES

Methodology: this paper focuses on the mains causes of the problems i.e. drugs abused or substance abused, among youth, its symptoms and sign, and consequences especially on health. And also preventives measures or principles that's prominent authors cited in their articles or reports which are believed to be effective.

Keywords: Drugs Abuse, Substance Abuse, Consequences, Inhalants, Marijuana,

Narcotics1. INTRODUCTION

Drugs abuse or substance abuse has been a serious issue that's surround youth life, as most of the youth get exposed to this habit with or without knowing /noticing the adverse negative consequences it has on their Future, most of them regret the life they found themselves in, and are willing to change for good but lack of awareness or help from those that supposed to put them on proper line of Recovery makes life more difficult and miserable to them, this types of issues were normally or frequently reported from a developing countries,

Drugs or substance abuse has been in existence for a long time, and its widely regarded by both government, communities NGOs as a societal issue that's need proper concentrations from both parties that involve especially parents, in trying to explains the issue, A number of

research have been made in order to identify both the causes, Effect / consequences of this

harmful acts, and their finding was published by numerous authors, like Ahmed (2002)

- 26 reported that drugs or substance abuse lead to a psychological problems such as
- 27 depression (state of being kin low spirit), anxiety, dementia (loss of memory), Hallucination
- 28 (hearing or seeing an image when this is not real), moodiness and aggressiveness leading
- 29 to the degeneration of the individual.
- 30 This articles review the problem and cite some of the preventive measures and principles
- 31 that's when dully followed will result in both reducing the number of those that will be
- 32 effected and also, retrieving of those that have been already in the dilemma for a long time.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Drug abuse

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- 35 Drugs abuse is define as a pattern of recurrent use of drugs that leads to damaging
- 36 consequences. These Damaging consequences may involve failure to meet one's major role
- responsibilities.(Beauvais et al, 1996).

2.1.1 Why do people take drugs?

- 39 Reasons behind this habit of improper use of drugs and other substances varied, as different
- 40 people takes such drugs in such of particular satisfactions which the abuser believe to have
- 41 when he used those drugs or substances. Some takes drugs in order to reduced stress,
- 42 some due to their work conditions, while some used such substances to have a relieve from
- 43 frustrations, anger, depressions etc. and it's in the process of doing that they become
- 44 addicted to such substance, and their life affected badly. But In general, we can say that
- 45 people begin taking drugs for a variety of reasons which include the like of :
 - To feel good.
- 47 Most abused drugs produce intense feelings of joy and pleasure. This initial sensation of
- 48 euphoria is followed by other effects, which differ with the type of drug used. For example,
- 49 with stimulants such as cocaine, the "high" is followed by feelings of power, self-confidence,
- 50 and increased energy. In contrast, the euphoria caused by opiates substances such as
- 51 heroin is followed by feelings of relaxation and satisfaction.

- 52 2- To feel better.
- 53 Some people who suffer from social anxiety, stress-related disorders, and depression begin
- 54 abusing drugs in an attempt to lessen feelings of distress. Stress play a major role in
- 55 beginning drug use, continuing drug abuse, to the extents were the abuser become addicted
- 56 3- To do better.
- 57 Some people feel pressure when chemically enhance or improve their cognitive or athletic
- 58 performance, (which can play a role in) therefore from initial experimentation, they proceed
- 59 and continued the use of such drugs, e.g. prescription stimulants or anabolic/androgenic
- steroids etc. and there by become addicted to them.
- 61 4- Curiosity or because others are doing it.
- In a report title *Drugs, Brains, and Behavior The Science of Addiction* by National Institute
- 63 on Drug Abuse (2013) Its state that adolescents are particularly vulnerable to drug abuse
- 64 because of the strong influence of peer pressure. While Teens are more likely than adults to
- engage in such a risky or daring behaviors to impress their friends and express their
- 66 independence from parental and social rules

67 2.2 categories / classifications of drugs abused

- 68 As reasons for drugs abused varied, Types of Drugs Abuse also varied, In Nigeria, the
- 69 most common types of abused drugs according to NAFDAC (2000) as cited by Haladu
- 70 (2003) are categorized as follows:-

71 **2.2.1 Stimulants:**

- 72 These are substances that directly act and stimulate the central nervous system. Users at
- 73 the initial stage experience pleasant effects such as energy increase. The major source of
- 74 these comes from caffeine substance.

75 **2.2.2 Hallucinogens:**

76	These are drugs that alter the sensory processing unit in the brain. Thus, producing
77	distorted perception, feeling of anxiety and euphoria, sadness and inner joy, they normally
78	come from marijuana and it's like. Etc.
79	2.2.3 Narcotics:
80	These drugs relive pains, induce sleeping and they are addictive. They are found in heroin,
81	codeine, opium etc.
82	2.2.4 Sedatives:
83	These drugs are among the most widely used and abused. This is largely due to the belief
84	that they relieve stress and anxiety, and some of them induce sleep, ease tension, cause
85	relaxation or help users to forget their problems. They are sourced from valium, alcohol,
86	promethazine, chloroform.
87	2.2.5 Miscellaneous:
88	This is a group of volatile solvents or inhalants that provide euphoria, emotional disinhibition
89	and perpetual distortion of thought to the user. The main sources are glues, spot removers,
90	tube repair, perfumes, chemicals etc.
91	2.2.6 Tranquilizers:
92	They are believed to produce calmness without bringing drowsiness, they are chiefly derived
93	from Librium, Valium etc. (Fareo, 2012)
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97	2.3 Most abused substance
98	2.3.1 Marijuana
99	The use of marijuana has been increasing at a much faster rate than the use of other drugs,
100	particularly among the youngest teens in the world, and its directly accounts for much of the
101	rise in overall drug use statistics. In United states of America, Marijuana use among 8th
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grade students, and its nearly tripled from 6.2 percent in 1991 to 18.3 percent in 1996, and leveled off at 17.7 percent in 1997 (MTFS, 1997)

2.3.2 Inhalant

Inhalants are another important class of drugs, second only to marijuana in their lifetime use prevalence rates among adolescents. Inhalants are easily available, inexpensive, and often not classified as illicit drugs in the minds of children and their parents. Inhalant use is most prevalent among younger children, *national youth anti-drug media campaign reported that* in 1997 data collected in the united states shows that's, 21 percent of 8th graders, 18 percent of 10th graders, and 16 percent of 12th graders said they had bagged, huffed, or sniffed a chemical at least once in their lives. Inhalants are dangerous; even a single episode of inhalant use can cause brain damage and death.

2.4 the consequences of drug use

The direct physical consequences of using "hard" drugs such as cocaine and heroin are generally well known, at least among the adult population, as a result of the considerable coverage they have received in the popular media. But it was unfortunate haw the public are less aware of the dangers of using marijuana and other inhalants substance which they also inflict severe effects. Here we will site the effects or consequences resulted as a result of using substances like marijuana and inhalants.

2.4.1 Marijuana

One of the most serious dangers of using marijuana is that it open the abusers at higher risk for using more dangerous drugs. However, marijuana use itself has serious immediate and long-term adverse consequences.

127 Few of the immediate effects of marijuana use include sleepiness, difficulty in keeping track 128 of time, and most important, reduced ability to perform tasks requiring concentration or 129 complex psychomotor skills. These neuro-psychological symptoms severely impair a child 130 performance and activities such as studying, memorizing, driving, and sports it was also 131 noted that, used of marijuana also reduces motivation and activity level, thereby interfering 132 with the development of physical and psychological skills which is very much need later life 133 (NIDA, 1997). 134 Though long time effects of using marijuana are not completely understood, but there is 135 strong evidence that marijuana can cause serious health problems. 136 In a report by NIDA (1997) states that's Marijuana smoke contains more than 400 137 carcinogenic compounds, and a person who smokes five joints per week may be taking in as 138 many cancer-causing chemicals as someone who smokes a full pack of cigarettes every 139 day. Ironically, this shows that's people mistakenly believe that cigarette smoking is more 140 harmful than using marijuana, which is very much wrong some extent, because marijuana 141 users typically smoke less than cigarette smokers but the effects and consequences that 142 small amount will result is huge. In fact, regular marijuana smokers have the same kinds of 143 respiratory problems as cigarette smokers' daily cough and phlegm and more frequent chest 144 colds. 145 THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) also affects hormonal systems and can impair 146 sexual and reproductive functions (NIDA, 1997). In males it may delay the onset of puberty 147 and lower the sperm count. In women, it can disrupt the menstrual cycle and inhibit 148 ovulation. Long-term use of marijuana may compromise the immune system (NIDA, 1997). 149 Some people also build tolerance for the drug and may develop a chemical dependency. 150 Long-term use of marijuana may also cause chronic psychological problems. Some frequent 151 users of marijuana develop problems like "a motivational syndrome" which is characterized

by chronic fatigue, a lack of motivation, and not caring what happens to them.

2.4.2 Inhalants

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The list of physical consequences of inhalant use is as diverse as the list of inhalants themselves.in general, of the thousand or so chemicals that adolescents have been known to sniff to get high, nearly all were found to cause problems like, brain damage, suffocation, visual hallucinations, and sudden death, even at the first attempt, they inflict or cause problems like the heart palpitations, delirium, difficulty in breathing, which are the few among the popular short time effects of using Inhalants. (NIDA, 1997)

2.5 signs and symptoms of drug abuse

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According to Adolescents Health Information Project AHIP (2001) as cited by Fareo (2012) in a paper title, "Drug *abuse among Nigerian adolescents' strategies for counseling*" the following are signs and symptoms of drug abuse:

164 2.5.1 Signs of Drug Used and Drug Paraphernalia

- Possession of drug related paraphernalia such as pipes, rolling paper, small decongestant
- Possession of drugs, peculiar plants or bolts, seeds of leaves in ashtrays or clothing pockets.
- 169 > Odour of drugs, smell of incense or other cover up scents.

170 **2.5.2 Identification with Drug Culture**

- 171 > Drug related magazines, slogans on clothing
- 172 > Hostility in discussing drugs

173 2.5.3 Signs of Physical Deterioration

- 174 Memory lapses, short attention span, difficulty in concentration.
- Poor physical coordination, slurred or incoherent speech; unhealthy appearance, indifference to hygiene and grooming
- 177 > Bloodshot eyes, dilated pupils.

2.5.4 Changes in Behavior

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179 > Distinct downward performance in school place of work.

- 180 > Increased absenteeism or tardiness.
- 182 > Trouble with the police and other law enforcement agencies

- 185 > Reduce motivation, energy, self-discipline, self-esteem etc. (Fareo ,2012)
- 186 In a report title Adolescent Health highlight: Used of illicit Drugs, (2013) revealed sign like 187 mood swing, weight loss and drop in grades students. а by 188 possession of drug paraphernalia, increase in problematic behaviors' are also a sign of 189 abuses. While some unique sign are experience by the use of some specific substances or 190 drugs, these includes for examples, sign of marijuana use include bloodshot eyes and 191 appearing dizzy or uncoordinated, while sign of Inhalants use are aggressive behavior or outburst, nausea, poor coordination, unintelligent speech and muscles weakness 192 193 (NIDA,2011).
- 194 Haladu (2003) gave the following as the main causes'

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- i. Experimental Curiosity: Curiosity to experiment the unknown facts about drugs thus motivates adolescents into drug use. The first experience in drug abuse produces a state of arousal such as happiness and pleasure which in turn motivate them to continue.
 - ii. Peer Group Influence: Peer pressure plays a major role in influencing many adolescents into drug abuse. This is because peer pressure is a fact of teenage and youth life. As they try to depend less on parents, they show more dependency on their friends. In Nigeria, as other parts of the world, one may not enjoy the company of others unless he conforms to their norms.
- 204 iii. Lack of parental supervision: Many parents have no time to supervise their sons and daughters. Some parents have little or no interaction with family members, while

206	others put pressure on their children to pass exams or perform better in their
207	studies. These phenomena initialize and increases drug abuse.

- iv. Personality Problems due to socio-Economic Conditions: Adolescents with personality problems arising from social conditions have been found to abuse drugs. The social and economic status of most Nigerians is below average. Poverty is widespread, broken homes and unemployment is on the increase, therefore our youths roam the streets looking for employment or resort to begging. These situations have been aggravated by lack of skills, opportunities for training and re-training and lack of committed action to promote job creation by private and community entrepreneurs. Frustration arising from these problems lead to recourse in drug abuse for temporarily removing the tension and problems arising from it.
- v. The Need for Energy to Work for Long Hours: The increasing economic deterioration that leads to poverty and disempowerment of the people has driven many parents to send their children out in search of a means of earning something for contribution to family income. These children engage in hawking, bus conducting, head loading, scavenging, serving in food canteens etc and are prone to drug taking so as to gain more energy to work for long hours.
- vi. Availability of the Drugs: In many countries, drugs have dropped in prices as supplies have increased.
- vii. The Need to prevent the Occurrence of Withdrawal symptoms: If a drug is stopped, the user experiences what is termed "withdrawal symptoms". Pain, anxiety, excessive sweating and shaking characterize such symptoms. The inability of the drug user to tolerate the symptoms motivates him to continue (Ige, 2000).

2.6 Drugs dependence or addictions among young

Substance or drugs abuse is a pattern of recurrent use substance or drugs that leads to damaging consequences. These Damaging consequences may involve failure to meet one's major role responsibilities (e.g., as student, worker, or parent), or putting oneself in situations where substance use become physically dangerous (e.g., mixing driving and substance use), or encountering repeated problems with the law arising from substance use (e.g., multiple arrests for substance-related behavior), or having recurring social or interpersonal problems because of substance use (e.g., repeatedly getting into fights when drinking).

Drugs or Substance dependence or Addictions can also be defined as a maladaptive pattern of use that results in significant impairment or distress, as shown by the following features that's used to occur:

- 1- Tolerance for the substance, Tolerance of the substances or drugs can be shown by either of the following
- the need for increased amounts of the substance to achieve the desired effect or intoxication, or
- Marked reduction in the effects of continuing to ingest the same amounts.
- 2. Withdrawal symptoms, as shown by either

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- > the withdrawal syndrome that is considered characteristic for the substance, or
- 248 > the taking of the same substance (or a closely related substance, as when methadone is substituted for heroin) to relieve or to prevent withdrawal symptoms.
- 3. Taking larger amounts of the substance or for longer periods of time than the individual intended (e.g., person had desired to take only one drink, but after taking the first, continues drinking until severely intoxicated).
- 4. Persistent desire to cut down or control intake of substance or lack of success in trying toexercise self-control.
- 5. Spending a good deal of time in activities directed toward obtaining the substance (e.g., visiting several physicians to obtain prescriptions or engaging in theft), in actually ingesting

- 257 the substance, or in recovering from its use. In severe cases, the individual's daily life
- 258 revolves around substance use.
- 259 6. The individual has reduced or given up important social, occupational, or recreational
- activities due to substance use (e.g., person withdraws from family events in order to indulge
- in drug use).
- 262 7. Substance use is continued despite evidence of persistent or recurrent psychological or
- 263 physical problems either caused or exacerbated by its use (e.g., repeated arrests for driving
- while intoxicated) and the likes.

265 **2.7 The effects of drug abuse**

- 266 Mba (2008) and Fareo (2012) identified numerous negative effects of drug abuse on the
- 267 body chemistry as follows:

268 2.7.1 Alcohol-related problems includes:

- 269 > Physical problems e.g. liver cirrhosis, pancreatic, peptic ulcer, tuberculosis,
- 270 hypertension, neurological disorder.
- 271 Mental retardation for the fetus in the womb, growth, deficiency, delayed motor
- 272 development.
- 273 > Craniofacial abnormalities, limbs abnormalities and cardiac deficits.
- 274 Psychiatric e.g. pathological drunkenness, suicidal behavior
- 275 > Socially-broken homes, increased crime rate, sexual offences, homicide and
- 276 sexually transmitted diseases.

277 **2.7.2. Tobacco:**

- 278 Causes stimulation of heart and narrowing of blood vessels, producing hypertension,
- 279 headache, loss of appetite, nausea and delayed growth of the fetus. It also aggravates or
- 280 causes sinusitis, bronchitis, cancer, strokes, and heart attack.

281 **2.7.3. Stimulants:**

282 Lethargy, irritability, exaggerated self-confidence, damage nose linings, sleeplessness, and 283 psychiatric complications. 284 2.7.4. Inhalants: 285 Causes anemia, damage kidney and stomach bleeding. 5. Narcotics: Causes poor 286 perception, constipation, cough, suppression, vomiting, drowsiness and sleep, 287 unconsciousness and death. 288 2.8 Protecting adolescents from substance abuse 289 Researchers have identified several strategies that's can be used to mitigate or controls 290 substance abuse among youths, these factors are regarded as protective factors that's when 291 dully followed can bring a positive change to the situations. 292 Bandy, T., & Moore, K. A. (2008) Explain that, One of the conditions that's make it more 293 likely that adolescent can attain a state of substance free is proper and effective connections 294 with his parents or Guardians, presence of parent in a Home at key time during the day, and 295 restricting the child from gaining access to illegal substances in the Home, and also 296 monitoring the were about of their children with or without their consent. 297 Also 298 strong connection to schools and a deep religious commitment also can help adolescents to 299 avoid substance use (CDCP, 2012). 300 2.8.1 Risk factors, protectives factors and preventions principles 301 In a report made by National institute on drug abuse of the United State of America, Title 302 preventing Drugs Abuse among Children and adolescents (2003) explained that's , Risks 303 Factors are any Factors associated with greater potential for drug abuse while those 304 associated with reducing potential for abuse are called "protective" factors. 305 2.8.2 Principles for proper prevention and cure 306 Principle 1

Hawkins et al. (2002) state that's any Prevention programs should enhance protective

factors and reverse or reduce risk factors, this was taken as the first principle by many

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- authors, and reported in many publications, like (NIDA, 2003) and explain by a number of authors such as ;
- Wills and McNamara et al. (1996) says that The risk of becoming a drug abuser involves a number of relationship that's exist among the types of risk factors (e.g., deviant attitudes and behaviors) and protective factors (e.g., parental support).
- Gerstein and Green (1993) and Kumpfer et al. (1998) say that, potential impact of specific risk and protective factors changes with age. For example, risk factors within the family have greater impact on a younger child, while association with drug-abusing peers and groups may be a more significant risk factor for an adolescent.
- Early intervention with risk factors (e.g., aggressive behavior and poor self-control) often has a greater impact than later intervention by changing a child's life path toward positive behaviors (lalongo et al. 2001).
- While risk and protective factors can affect people of all groups, these factors can have a different effect depending on a person's age, gender, ethnicity, culture, and environment as explains by Beauvais et al. (1996) and Moon et al. (1999).
- 324 Principle 2
- Prevention programs should address all forms of drug abuse, alone or in combination, including the underage use of legal drugs and other substances (e.g., tobacco or alcohol); the use of illegal drugs (e.g., marijuana or heroin); and the inappropriate use of legally obtained substances (e.g., inhalants), prescription medications, or over-the-counter drugs (Johnston et al. 2002).
- 330 Principle 3
- Prevention programs should address the type of drug abuse problem in the local community, target modifiable risk factors, and strengthen identified protective factors (Hawkins et al. 2002).
- 334 Principle 4

335 Prevention programs should be tailored to address risks specific to population or audience 336 characteristics, such as age, gender, and ethnicity, to improve program effectiveness (337 Oetting et al. 1997). 338 Principle 5 339 Family-based prevention programs should enhance family bonding and relationships and 340 include parenting skills; practice in developing, discussing, and enforcing family policies on 341 substance abuse; and training in drug education and information (Ashery et al. 1998). 342 Family bonding is the bedrock of the relationship between parents and children. Bonding can 343 be strengthened through skills training on parent supportiveness of children, parent-child 344 communication, and parental involvement (Kosterman et al. 1997). 345 · Parental monitoring and supervision are critical for drug abuse prevention. These skills can 346 be enhanced with training on rule-setting; techniques for monitoring activities; praise for 347 appropriate behavior; and moderate, consistent discipline that enforces defined family rules 348 (Kosterman et al. 2001). 349 · Drug education and information for parents or care givers reinforces what children are 350 learning about the harmful effects of drugs and opens opportunities for family discussions 351 about the abuse of legal and illegal substances (Bauman et al. 2001). 352 • Brief, family-focused interventions for the general population can positively change specific 353 parenting behavior that can reduce later risks of drug abuse (Spoth et al. 2002b). 354 Principle 6 355 Prevention programs can be designed to intervene as early as pre-school to address risk 356 factors for drug abuse, such as aggressive behavior, poor social skills, and academic 357 difficulties (Webster-Stratton 1998; Webster-Stratton et al. 2001). 358 Principle 7 359 Prevention programs for elementary school children should target improving academic and 360 social-emotional learning to address risk factors for drug abuse, such as early aggression, 361 academic failure, and school dropout. Education should focus on the following skills (lalongo

- 362 et al. 2001; Conduct Problems Prevention Work Group 2002b): self-control; emotional
- awareness; communication; social problem-solving; and academic support, especially in
- 364 reading.
- 365 Principle 8
- 366 Prevention programs for middle or junior high and high school students should increase
- academic and social competence with the following skills (Botvin et al.1995; Scheier et al.
- 368 1999): study habits and academic support; communication; peer relationships; self-
- 369 efficacy and assertiveness; drug resistance skills; reinforcement of antidrug attitudes; and
- strengthening of personal commitments against drug abuse.
- 371 Principle 9
- 372 Prevention programs aimed at general populations at key transition points, such as the
- 373 transition to middle school, can produce beneficial effects even among high-risk families and
- 374 children. Such interventions do not single out risk populations and, therefore, reduce labeling
- and promote bonding to school and community (Botvin et al. 1995; Dishion et al. 2002).
- 376 Principle 10
- 377 Community prevention programs that combine two or more effective programs, such as
- 378 family-based and school-based programs, can be more effective than a single program
- 379 alone (Battistich et al. 1997).
- 380 Principle 11
- 381 Community prevention programs reaching populations in multiple settings—for example,
- 382 schools, clubs, faith-based organizations, and the media—are most effective when they
- 383 present consistent, community-wide messages in each setting (Chou et al. 1998).
- 384 Prevention Program Delivery
- 385 Principle 12
- When communities adapt programs to match their needs, community norms, or differing
- 387 cultural requirements, they should retain core elements of the original research-based
- intervention (Spoth et al. 2002b), which include:

- Structure (how the program is organized and constructed);
- Content (the information, skills, and strategies of the program); and
- Delivery (how the program is adapted, implemented, and evaluated).
- 392 Principle 13
- 393 Prevention programs should be long-term with repeated interventions (i.e., booster
- 394 programs) to reinforce the original prevention goals. Research shows that the benefits from
- 395 middle school prevention programs diminish without follow-up programs in high school
- 396 (Scheier et al. 1999).
- 397 Principle 14
- 398 Prevention programs should include teacher training on good classroom management
- 399 practices, such as rewarding appropriate student behavior. Such techniques help to foster
- 400 students' positive behavior, achievement, academic motivation, and school bonding (
- 401 lalongo et al. 2001).
- 402 Principle 15
- 403 Prevention programs are most effective when they employ interactive techniques, such as
- 404 peer discussion groups and parent role-playing, that allow for active involvement in learning
- about drug abuse and reinforcing skills (Botvin et al. 1995).
- 406 Principle 16
- 407 Research-based prevention programs can be cost-effective. Similar to earlier research,
- recent research shows that for each dollar invested in prevention, a savings of up to \$10 in
- 409 treatment for alcohol or other substance abuse can be seen (Pentz 1998; Hawkins 1999;
- 410 Aos et al. 2001; Spoth et al. 2002a).

411 4. CONCLUSION

- 412 In this article effort have been made to address the problems of substance or drugs abuse
- 413 among the youth specifically in order to have a conceptual understanding of the problems,
- 414 main issue related to the causes, consequences, types of substances or drugs abused
- 415 were discussed, so also the preventive measures and principles were also discussed and

- 416 examined, its my hope that this article will be a reference model in the future studies related
- 417 to the substance abuse or Drugs abuse.

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