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INFLUENCE OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON DRUG/SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NNEWI NORTH LGA OF ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

Modebelu, Obiageli J..

*Counselling Unit, Department of Education
Distance Learning Institute (DLI) University of Lagos, Nigeria
+2348034118982
omodebelu@unilag.edu.*

Okojide, A.

*Covenant University, Otta, Ogun State
+2348062913038
angela.okojide@stu.cu.edu.ng*

&

Nwaoba Christy, N. .

*Department of Psychology and Counselling,
College of Education
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike
+2348036696668*

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the influence of emotional intelligence and parental influence on drug/substance use among secondary school students in Nnewi North Local Government Area of Anambra State. The population of the study was 3,685 students in the three schools used for the study. The sample of the study was 388 students purposively selected from the population. Three research questions and three hypotheses were raised to guide the study. The instruments for data collection were the Bar-On Emotional Quotient Inventory (EQi), Rohner & Khaleque Parental Control Questionnaire and the UN Office of Drug and Crime Drug Use Questionnaire. All the questionnaires were adapted to suit the present study. Simple percentages and Mean were used to answer the research questions, while Linear Regression was employed to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. The results from the study revealed that emotional intelligence was found to have a significant influence on drug and substance use ($F=3.318$, $P<0.069$) also parental influence has a significant influence on drug and substance use ($F= 5.829$, $P< 0.016$). Finally, gender was found to have no significant influence on drug use ($F=1.042$, $P>.308$). The study concluded that emotional intelligence has a positive influence on non-indulgence in drug use among the study population. Also, parental influence has a lot to do in the life of young people as it was evident from this present study that parental influence helps students to avoid the use of drugs. In addition, gender has no significant influence on drug use among the students. The study therefore recommends among others that seminars and workshops should be organised regularly for students to constantly strengthen their emotional intelligence which will help them to resist any pressure to engage in social vices including drug use and abuse. Parents should always be reminded of their roles in the upbringing of their wards during parent-teacher forums in schools.

Keywords: Emotional Intelligence, Parental Influence, Drug use, Nnewi, Anambra State

INTRODUCTION

Drug and substance abuse among adolescents and the youth are on the rise globally (Ani 2014; Al-Alawi and Shaikh 2018). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime World Drug Report (2024) recorded that drug and substance abuse is becoming an issue of serious medical concern, leading to drug use disorder and environmental harm. This is because of the serious medical, psychological and emotional dangers drug/substance use and abuse exposes an individual to. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, (2022) revealed that Alcohol and substance use leads to brain damage. Alabi and Oladele (2018) said that drug/substance abuse is “of great concern to educational stakeholders, medical practitioners, sociologists, religious leaders, counsellors and parents.” West African Commission on Drugs (WACD, 2014) indicated that “drug abuse is highly connected with impaired coordination and loss of capacity for self-control.”

According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC, 2018) "In Nigeria, one in seven persons aged 15-64 years had used a drug (other than tobacco and alcohol) in the past years. The past year prevalence of any drug use is estimated at 14.4 per cent (range 14.0 per cent - 14.8 per cent), corresponding to 14.3 million people aged 15-64 years who had used a psychoactive substance in the past years for non-medical purposes." The report also revealed that more men are using drugs than women, and drug/substance use and abuse differ in the six geo-political zones of the country. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA, 2021) reported that in Nigeria, the incidence of drug abuse is higher among young people between the ages of 15 and 35. NDLEA equally reported that as of December 2023, 14.3 million Nigerians are abusing drugs. This makes it a social problem that all (medical doctors, psychologists, counsellors, educationists, religious organisations, parents and indeed all social institutions) should consciously pull hands together to fight against to save the future generation of the country. Ofiaeli, Udigwe, Ndukwe and Emelumadu (2022) discovered in their study that the number of young people who were already involved in the use of substances/drugs was in a deplorable state even though the knowledge of drug abuse in Anambra state was low. Jatau, Sha'aban, Gulma, Shitu, Khalid, Isa, et al (2021) study revealed a prevalence of drug abuse to be as high as 20-40% and 20.9% among Nigerian youths and students.

There is a high correlation between drug and substance use and absenteeism in school, poor performance in school work, poor social and family relationships, and commitment to work or career. This was supported by Dankano and Garba's (2017) study which revealed a high association between drug use and poor academic performance among secondary school students in Taraba State. In the same vein, Osuafor (2021) reported that Alcohol use and smoking of cannabis were factors associated with student absenteeism. Drug/substance use has always been associated with different forms of crime such as rape, burglary, armed robbery, sex work and other illegal social behaviours. There are so many factors that predispose a person to drug/substance use. Ikoh, Smah, Okwuanya, Uhembe and Aposhi (2019) in their study of the factors affecting entry into drug abuse among the youth in Lafia Metropolis found that poor parental control, easy access to drugs and trendy issues of street crime and violence were accounted for the practice of drug abuse in the Metropolis. According to Oye and Ibimiluyi (2022), other factors include the desire to discover new things, peer pressure, poor parental guidance and control, and socio-economic status. In addition, the requirement for vigour for long working hours, accessibility to drugs, prevention of withdrawal symptoms and emotional intelligence.

Every human being is an emotional being. Right from infancy an individual begins to display different types of emotions; crying, laughing, being sad, resentment, and all forms of emotional attachment and realities that constitute our emotional make-up. An emotionally intelligent person is always aware that emotions control to a great extent an individual's thoughts, judgements and behaviours. Emotional intelligence has been defined by many authorities in the field of psychology. Emotional intelligence has been taken as a very important determinant of an individual's knowledge, skills and abilities in occupational, social and personal life.

Emotional intelligence affects the way an individual behaves personally and how he interacts with people around him. Salovey and Mayer (1990) define emotional intelligence as "the ability to monitor one's own and others feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information to guide ones thinking and actions". Also, Hein (2009) defined emotional intelligence "as the innate potential to feel, use, communicate, recognize, remember, learn from, manage, understand and explain emotions." Emotional intelligence is, therefore, the ability to understand one's feelings and that of other people around one; to understand life situations and challenges and be able to relate positively with self and others and also to manage every day's life challenges in a way that would not be detrimental to one's emotional and mental health.

Mayer, Caruso and Salovey, (2016) presented the Ability Model of emotional intelligence. The model posited four branches of emotional intelligence – managing emotions, understanding emotions, facilitating emotions and perceiving emotions. Emotional Intelligence, according to them, helps an individual in monitoring his or her behaviours and actions. Therefore, the ability of an individual to be aware of his or her emotions and that of other people around him or her would

go a long way in helping him or her in manifesting and controlling behaviour thereby exhibiting socially acceptable behaviours. Kun, Urban, Paski, Griffiths, Richmon and Demetrovics (2019) found out in their study that although emotional intelligence is not a key factor underlying substance use habits, it has an individual effect on substance use beyond depressive tendencies and self-esteem.

Emotional intelligence can help individuals build better social and physical well-being, reduce anxiety and depression, help to be socially active, self-regulated, and healthy, bring better achievement and provide the skills needed for personal and professional development (Gilar-Corbi, R., Pozo-Rico, T., Sánchez, B., and Castejón, J.-L. (2019). Eze and Ezeahurukwe (2015) noted that students with high emotional intelligence are characterized by quality social relationships with friends and teachers, long retention in the education system, perform better academically, have feelings of emotional security, and exhibit pro-social behaviours. Hosseini and Anari (2011) found out negative significant correlation between emotional intelligence and unstable personality in substance abusers. Eikenberry (2016) in a related study found a statistically significant relationship between the Emotional Intelligence subscale of managing emotions in the self and substance abuse. In the same vein, Dashit and Zamani (2018) reported that emotional intelligence has a significant influence on alcohol use among prison inmates.

Another factor that may predispose a child to drug use and abuse is parental influence and control. Parental influence is the ability of parents to monitor, guide, teach and direct their children to inculcate the societal values that would make them behave appropriately in the society where they find themselves. Parental influence according to Baumrind (1971) can be viewed from two dimensions parental control and parental warmth. Parental control helps a parent to exert authority over their children, while parental warmth helps parents to care for and provide a loving and conducive home environment where the child grows and feels at home. Parental influence on drug use among youth and adolescents has been studied by different authorities. Zapolski, Clifton, Bank, Hershberger and Aalsma (2019) in their study revealed that the relationship between peer pressure and drug use increased as a function of poor parenting. Parental control and monitoring decrease substance use (Branstetter, Furman and Cotterell, 2009). Garcia, Blasco, Lopez and Pol (2010) in their study found that perceived lack of parental discipline is related to legal and illegal drug use.

In addition, poor parenting practices and attitudes have been associated with alcohol and substance use among young people as well and inconsistent discipline and inadequate monitoring of wards by the parents are found to be connected to student's levels of alcohol and cigarette use (Mrug, Gains, Su and Windle 2010). This is supported by Nacada's (2012) study which reported that about 7.2% of young people who have taken drugs, alcohol and other substances have parents or close relations who are using one drug or the other. Becona, Martinez, Calafat, Fernandez-Hermida, Juan, Sumnall, Mendes, and Gabrhelik (2013) in their study revealed that young people who see their parents as being authoritarian and having little control tend to use alcohol, tobacco and cannabis. They also discover gender differences in parental control and drug use. Keogh-Clark, Whaley, Leventhal, and Krueger. (2021) and Jokhio, & Soomro, (2022) in their studies found a negative relationship between parental control and substance use, and that there is a gender difference in parental control and drug use among their samples.

Nnewi North Local government is one of the twenty-one (21) local government areas of Anambra State. It has an estimated population of one million, three hundred and one thousand (1,301,000) as of January 2024 (Wikipedia, 2024). Nnewi North LGA is made up of four quarters – Otolu, Uruagu, Umudim and Nnewichi. Nnewi is a commercial cosmopolitan city because of the “Nkwo” spare parts market and big manufacturing companies that attract traders and business people from across the globe. It is densely populated with people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Owing to this, social life in Nnewi is greatly influenced because of this diversity. Drugs and drug abuse are on the increase in the town. This is the main reason why Nnewi was seen as suitable for this study of this study.

Statement of the Problem

The use and abuse of drugs and other substances have been on the increase in Nigeria, many youths are taking to the use of different drugs such as cannabis, cough syrup such as codeine, tramadol, cocaine, inhalants and other drugs for various reasons at an alarming rate. There are a lot of factors that have been advanced that predispose the youths to use and abuse drugs. Parents, teachers, administrators, and governmental and non-governmental organizations are really disturbed by this trend. This is because of the fact that drug use and abuse are generally related to other crimes such as armed robbery and theft, burglary, arson, sex work, school dropout, and other anti-social behaviours. A lot of studies have been conducted in Nigeria on many of the factors that make the youth take to drug use and abuse. However, to the best of my knowledge, no study has tried to assess emotional intelligence and parental influence as they influence drug use and abuse among secondary school students in Nnewi, Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State. This is the main thrust of this study.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to ascertain the influence of emotional intelligence and parental influence on drug use among secondary school students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State. Specifically, the study tries to:

- Assess the level of emotional intelligence among the students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State.
- Ascertain the level of parental influence among the students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State.
- Assess the prevalence of drug use among the students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State.

Research Questions

- What is the level of emotional intelligence among students at Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State?
- What is the level of parental influence of students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State?
- What is the prevalence of drug use among students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State?

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant influence of emotional intelligence on drug use among students in Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State.
2. There is no significant influence of Parental Influence on drug use among students in Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State.
3. There is no significant influence of emotional intelligence and parental influence based on gender.

METHODS

The study used a cross-sectional descriptive survey design. The study population consists of all secondary school students in the six public secondary schools in Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State. Multi-stage sampling method was employed to obtain the sample from the population. The sample size was calculated using the Taro Yamani sample size determination formula.

Population of the Study

The target population of the study was three thousand, six hundred and eighty-five (3,685) students in the three schools selected.

Sample/ Sampling Techniques

The study adopted a multistage sampling technique. In the first stage, stratified sampling was employed to divide the population into three strata single-gender schools for girls, single-gender schools for boys and mixed-gender schools. Secondly, stratified random sampling was used to select one school from each stratum. After which the study employed convenient sampling to select the respondents who participated in the study. The sample for the study was 388 students who were willing to participate in the study.

Data Collection Instruments

The instruments used for the study were a 15-item Likert 5-point Scale Bar-On Emotional Quotient Inventory (EQi), a 10-item Rohner & Khaleque 5-point Parental control questionnaire and a 14-item two-options UN Office of Drug and Crime Drug use questionnaire. These instruments were adapted from the original ones to suit the purpose of this study. These instruments were validated by experts in the guidance and counselling department of the University of Lagos. The instruments were subject to Cronbach's alpha reliability test, they yielded an overall reliability index of 0.79 which was considered acceptable to be used for the study.

The instruments were divided into two broad parts (A and B). Part A consists of items that elicit information on the respondents' biodata such as their age, gender, class, parents' occupations and educational background and type of family. Part B covered the variables under four sub-scales.

Method of Data Collection

The data for the study was primary data collected from direct sources using a survey questionnaire. The copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents directly by the researchers.

Method of Data Analysis

The 313 copies of the questionnaire which were properly filled were collected from the participants, sorted, coded and analyzed. Descriptive statistics such as simple frequency counts and percentages were used to answer the research question. The hypotheses were tested using simple linear regression.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: What is the level of emotional intelligence among students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State?

Table 1: Percentage score of the is the level of emotional intelligence among the students.

S/N	Item	Not MA	NM	NMNL	VM	VVM	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	Having a good sense of reason for certain feelings.	91 (29.0%)	100 (31.8%)	32 (10.2%)	50 (15%)	40 (12.7%)	3.4745		Low Emotional Int.
2.	Having a good understanding of emotions.	155 (49.4%)	111 (35.4%)	14 (4.5%)	22 (7.0%)	11 (3.5%)	4.2045		High
3.	Understanding feeling.	159 (50.0%)	94 (29.9%)	20 (6.4%)	28 (8.9%)	14 (4.5%)	4.1246		High
4.	Good knowledge of happiness.	169 (53.8%)	95 (30.3%)	21 (6.7%)	22 (7.0%)	6 (1.9%)	3.2748		Low
5.	Understands friends' feelings from behaviour.	83 (26.7%)	82 (26.4%)	47 (15.0%)	74 (23.6%)	27 (8.6%)	3.3834		Low
6.	Good observer of others' emotions.	92 (29.3%)	85 (27.1%)	42 (13.4%)	68 (21.7%)	26 (8.3%)	3.4760		Low
7.	Sensitive to other's feelings and emotions.	84 (26.8%)	95 (30.3%)	44 (14.0%)	68 (21.7%)	22 (7.0%)	3.4824		Hight
8.	Good understanding of the emotions of people around	98 (31.2%)	94 (29.9%)	32 (10.2%)	74 (23.6%)	15 (4.8%)	3.5942		High
9.	Always setting and achieving goals.	190 (60.5%)	85 (27.1%)	22 (7.0%)	10 (3.2%)	6 (1.9%)	4.4153		High
10.	Always confirming to be a competent person.	175 (55.7%)	96 (30.6%)	19 (6.1%)	16 (5.1%)	7 (2.2%)	4.3291		High
11.	Being self-motivated.	164 (52.2%)	97 (30.9%)	19 (6.1%)	23 (7.3%)	8 (2.5%)	4.2268		High
12.	Encouraged and trying to be the best.	209 (66.6%)	74 (23.6%)	11 (3.5%)	8 (2.5%)	11 (3.5%)	4.4760		High
13.	Able to control temper and difficulties.	133 (42.4%)	95 (30.3%)	30 (9.6%)	38 (12.1%)	17 (5.4%)	3.9233		High
14.	Capable of controlling emotions.	142 (45.2%)	104 (33.1%)	24 (7.6%)	32 (10.2%)	11 (3.5%)	4.0671		High
15.	Always calm down when angry.	99 (31.5%)	79 (25.2%)	31 (9.9%)	53 (16.9%)	51 (16.2%)	3.3898		Low

Not much at all (Not MA), Not much (NM), Neither much nor little (NMNL), Very much (VM), Very very much (VVM). Weighted Average: 34.81.

The data analysis showed that the majority of students appeared to have a high level of good understanding of their own emotions and understood what they felt. They were sensitive to the feelings and emotions of others, had a good understanding of the emotions of people, and always set and achieved goals. In addition, a number of them always tell themselves that they are competent, self-motivated, always encouraged to be best, able to control their temper and handle difficulties, capable of controlling emotions and calm down when very angry. On the other hand, a few numbers of participants had low emotional intelligence. For example, they do not have a

good sense of why they have certain feelings, know when they are happy, know friends' emotions from their behaviours, are good observers of other's emotions and do not calm down when they are very angry.

Research Question 2

What is the level of parental control on drug use among students in Nnewi North L.G.A of

Anambra State?

Table 2: Percentage score of level of parental control on drug use among the students.

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	My parents educate me on the dangers of illegal drugs	138 (58.3%)	45 (14.3%)	30 (9.6%)	56 (17.8%)	3.1306		High Parental influence
2.	I did not take drugs because of my parents' control	122 (38.9%)	104 (33.1%)	40 (12.7%)	48 (15.3%)	2.9554		High Parental influence
3.	My parents always check my bags whenever I come back from school	39 (12.4%)	78 (24.8%)	123 (39.2%)	73 (23.2%)	2.2580		High
4.	My parents usually send me to buy alcoholic beverages for them	16 (5.1%)	30 (9.6%)	64 (20.4%)	204 (65.0%)	1.5478		High
5.	I see my father using drugs and other substances	5(1.6%)	29 (9.2%)	42 (13.4%)	238 (75.8%)	1.3662		Low
6.	My mother drinks and smokes	10 (3.2%)	6(1.9%)	19 (6.1%)	278 (88.5%)	1.1911		Low
7.	My parent sells cigarettes and other substances	6(1.9%)	16 (5.1%)	32 (10.2%)	260 (82.8%)	1.2611		Low
8.	My parents sell alcoholic beverages and I assist them in the business	7(2.2%)	21 (6.7%)	25 (8.0%)	261 (83.1%)	.2803		Low
9.	You can smoke cigarettes and any substance in my family without any problem	4(1.3%)	11 (3.5%)	20 (6.4%)	279 (88.9%)	1.1720		Low
10.	There is no age limit for drinking alcoholic beverages in my family	15 (4.8%)	14 (4.5%)	37 (11.8%)	247 (78.7%)	1.3471		Low

Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A) Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD).

The data analysis of the second research question showed that an average number of students appeared to have a high level of parental influence against the use of drugs as their parents educated them on the danger of illegal drugs, and did not take drugs because of their parents' control. In addition, their parents always check their bags whenever they come back from school and do not usually ask them to buy alcoholic beverages for them. Meanwhile, the majority of participants had a low level of parental influence against the use of drugs. For example, they saw their father using drugs and other substances, their mother drank and smoked, their parents sold cigarettes and other substances, their parents sold alcoholic beverages and assisted them in the business, and they can smoke cigarettes and any substance in their family without any problem, and there was no age limit in drinking alcoholic beverages in their family.

Research Question 3

What is the prevalence of drug use among students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State?

Table 3: Prevalence of drug use among the students.

S/N	Items	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Mean	Decision
1.	Taken drugs that are not prescribed for you?	42	13.4%	272	86.6%	.1338	Low
2.	Used prescribed drugs wrongly?	28	8.9%	286	9.1%	.0892	Low
3.	Have used more than one illicit drug?	58	18.5%	256	81.5%	.1847	Low
4.	Can't stay for a week without drugs.	253	80.6%	61	19.4%	.7197	High
5.	Able to stop using drugs when required?	226	72.0%	88	28.0%	.4331	High
6.	Had lost control of myself due to drug use?	136	43.3%	178	56.7%	.4331	High
7.	Felt guilty about drug use?	92	29.3%	222	70.7%	.2930	High
8.	Parents are worried about your involvement with drugs.	42	13.4%	272	86.6%	.1338	Low
9.	Drug abuse creates problems between you and your parents.	25	8.0%	289	92.0%	.0796	Low
10.	Lost friends due to drug use?	16	5.1%	298	94.9	.0510	Low
11.	Neglect chores because of drug use?	17	5.4%	297	94.6%	.0541	Low
12.	In trouble at school because of abuse of drugs?	16	5.1%	298	94.9%	.0510	Low
13.	Had low grade because of abuse of drugs?	16	5.1%	298	94.9%	.0510	Low
14.	Fought in school under the influence of drugs?	64	20.4%	250	79.6%	.2038	Low

The data analysis of the third research question showed that a few number (28.5%) students could get over the week without drug use, were able to stop drug use when they wanted to, had "blackouts" or "flashbacks" due to drug use and never felt guilty about their use of drugs. In opposition, the majority of students (71.4%) scored high as they have not used drugs apart from the one needed for medicals, had not abused prescribed drugs, and did not abuse several drugs at a time. Similarly, the majority of them scored low as their parents never complained about their engagement in drugs, never had problems with parents due to drug use, lost friends due to drug use, neglected their close relatives as a result of drug use, not been in trouble at work due of drug abuse, lost a job or gotten into fights because of the influence of drug abuse.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant influence of emotional intelligence on drug use among students in Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State.

Table 4: Regression analysis of the influence of emotional intelligence among students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State.

Regression Coefficient

Model	Unstandardized Co		Standardized Coefficient	t-test	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.343	.053		6.479	.000
Emotional Intelligence	-.024	.013	-.103	-1.822	.069

a. Dependent Variable: Drug Use

To analyze hypothesis 1, linear regression was employed at 95% confidence interval. The analysis showed a significant model summary of $F(1,309) = 3.318$, $P < 0.069$, $\text{Adj } R^2 = -.007$, $R^2 = 0.011$, $R^2 \text{ change} = 0.011$. The analysis showed that emotional intelligence has a significant influence on the drug use of students ($\beta = -.103$, $t = -1.822$, $P < 0.069$). Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant influence of Parental Influence on drug use among students in Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State.

Table 5: Regression analysis of the level of Parental Influence among students in Nnewi North L.G.A of Anambra State.

Model	Regression Coefficient		Standardized Coefficient	t-test	Sig.
	Unstandardized Co				
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.143	.044		3.246	.001
Parental Influence	.059	.024	.136	2.414	.016

a. Dependent Variable: Drug Use

To analyze the hypothesis 2, the linear regression was employed at 95% confidence interval. The analysis showed a significant model summary of $F(1,311) = 5.829$, $P < 0.016$, $\text{Adj } R^2 = -.015$, $R^2 = 0.018$, $R^2 \text{ change} = 0.018$. The analysis showed that parental influence has a significant influence on the drug use of students ($\beta = -.136$, $t = -2.414$, $P < 0.016$). Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis 3: Gender has no significant influence on the use of drugs.

Table 6; Regression analysis of the influence of gender on drug use.

Model	Regression Coefficient		Standardized Coefficient	t-test	Sig.
	Unstandardized Co				
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.219	.029		7.470	.000
Gender	.019	.018	.058	1.021	.308

a. Dependent Variable: Drug Use

To analyze the hypothesis 3, the linear regression was employed at 95% confidence interval. The analysis showed no significant model summary of $F(1,311) = 1.042$, $P > .308$, $\text{Adj } R^2 = -.008$, $R^2 = 0.003$, $R^2 \text{ change} = 0.003$. The analysis showed that gender has no significant influence on the drug use of students ($\beta = -.058$, $t = 1.021$, $P > .308$). Hence, the hypothesis is accepted.

DISCUSSION

The first research question was tested using descriptive statistics to ascertain the level of emotional intelligence among students. The result showed that the majority of students appeared to have a high level of emotional intelligence. This result is supported by Gilar-Corbi, Pozo-Rico, Sánchez, & Castejón. (2019) noted that emotional intelligence can help individuals build better social and physical well-being, reduce anxiety and depression, help to be socially active, self-regulated, and healthy bring better achievement and provide the skills needed for personal and

professional development. On the other hand, a few numbers of participants had low levels of emotional intelligence. This indicates that people who have low emotional intelligence are predisposed to drug abuse.

The data analysis of the second research question which ascertained the level of parental influence on drug use among students showed that an average number of students appeared to have a high level of parental influence against the use of drugs as their parents educated them on the danger of illegal drugs, did not take drugs because of their parents' control. This is in line with Branstetter, Furman and Cotterell, (2009) who stated that parental control and monitoring decreases substance use. On the other hand, the majority of participants had a low level of parental influence against the use of drugs. For example, they saw their father using drugs and other substances, their parents sold cigarettes and other substances, and their parents sold alcoholic beverages and they assisted them in the business. This result is supported by Nacada's (2012) study which reported that about 7.2% of young people who have taken drugs, alcohol and other substances have parents or close relations who are using one drug or the other.

The data analysis of the third research question which ascertained the prevalence of drug use among students showed that a number (28.5%) of students scored high in drug use and can go over the week in absence of drug use, were able to stop drug use when they needed to, and never felt guilty about their drug use. On the other hand, the majority of students (71.4%) scored low as they had not used drugs apart from the ones needed for medicals, had not abused prescribed drugs, and did not abuse several drugs at a time. The result of this study is like the findings of Jatau, Sha'aban, Gulma, Shitu, Khalid, Isa, et al (2021) study which showed that Nigerian youths and students had a high prevalence of drug abuse of 20-40% and 20.9%.

The first research hypothesis which states that emotional intelligence has no significant influence on drug use was tested using linear regression analysis. The analysis showed that emotional intelligence has a significant influence on the drug use of students. This result is supported by a study by Dashit & Zamani (2018) who reported that emotional intelligence influences alcohol use among prison inmates.

The second hypothesis which stated that parental influence has no significant influence on drug use among students in Nnewi Anambra State was tested using linear regression analysis. Results found that parental influence has a significant influence on the drug use of students. This finding is in line with Ikoh, Smah, Okwuanya, Uhembe and Aposhi's (2019) study of the factors affecting entry into drug abuse among the youth in Lafia Metropolis which found that drug abuse was notably carried out in the Metropolis as a result of poor parental control and accessibility to drugs.

The third research hypothesis which states that gender has no significant influence on drug use among students in Nnewi Anambra state was tested using linear regression analysis. The analysis showed that gender has no significant influence on the drug use of students. This result contradicts Ofiaeli, *et al* (2022) study on knowledge and indulgence in substance abuse among adolescents in Anambra state which revealed that gender has a significant association with drug abuse in late adolescence but not in mid-adolescence.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concluded that emotional intelligence and parental influence have a significant influence on drug use among the student population. Gender on the other hand has no significant influence on drug use among the study population. Drugs and drug use are on the increase, especially among young people. Schools, teachers, counsellors and parents have a lot to do to assist young people in staying away from illicit drugs. Also, the youth should be trained to develop positive and high emotional intelligence as it has a positive influence on non-indulgence on drugs. The study therefore recommends the following:

1. Emotional Intelligence Training should be organised for students to constantly strengthen their emotional quotient. This would help them resist any pressure to engage in any social vices including drug use.
2. Parent-Teachers Forums should be encouraged. During such meetings, parents should be reminded of their roles in their children's upbringing because inculcating the right values, social skills and etiquette are the duties of parents to their children.
3. Drug abuse campaigns and enlightenment programmes should be organised regularly in schools and communities in Nnewi North LGA.

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