

**RESEARCH ON DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE USE AMONG THE ADOLESCENT IN THE URBAN SETTLEMENT OF KOROGOCHO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS**



# FIELD WORK COMPLETION REPORT

## 1.0 Introduction

In this study, the main purpose is to determine the prevalence and factors associated with substance use among the youth and adolescent people in the Urban settlement of Korogocho which is a replica to all other informal settlement in KENYA, as well as to document any effects attributed to the use of various substances and possible solutions/ recommendations to these effect.

Substance use among big number of young and adolescent people from korogocho predicts substance related problems in later life which are both physical and psychological.

Few studies on these phenomena have been carried out in low income countries, and most focus on primary and secondary school students which showed serious adverse effects. This study therefore aims to establish the prevalence and factors associated with drug use among the adolescent people in the urban slums between the age of ten and above and subsequent preventative remedies to this problem now and in future.

### 1.0.1 Demographic Information

According to 2009 census, Korogocho location has a total area of 0.9km<sup>2</sup>. It has been divided into three sub-locations namely:

1. Gitathuru sub location
2. Nyayo sublocation
3. Korogocho sublocation

The area has a total population of 41946 residents. This demographic is summarized below:

Sub location	Villages	Number of males/ Sub location	Number of females/ Sub location	Total population/ sub location	Total area (KM <sup>2</sup> )
1. Gitathuru	Gitathuru	11379	10356	21735	0.5
	Ngomongo				
	Grogon A.				
	Grogon B				
2. Nyayo	Korogocho A.	5203	4632	9835	0.2
	Kisumu Ndogo				
	Nyayo				
3. Korogocho	Highridge	5376	5000	10376	0.2
	Korogocho B				

## 1.0.2 Research Methods

A descriptive cross-sectional survey using a one to one cross-examination questionnaire to collect information on use of various drugs among the children and youths in schools and out of schools within korogocho and its surrounding areas was applied.

## 1.0.3 Setting

All the nine villages' of korogocho and its surroundings areas were selected for inclusion in the study. These include; Korogocho A., Korogocho B., Highridge, Ngomongo, Gitathuru, Grogon A. Grogon B. Kisumu Ndogo and Nyayo.

## 2.0 Villages of field activities

Village	Date visited	REMARKS
1. KOROGOCHO A.	24/06/2015	Good cooperation by stakeholders
2.KOROGOCHO B.	24/06/2015	Some victims couldn't cooperate well
3. HIGHRIDGE	25/06/2015	Better information from victims and those affected
4.NGOMONGO	26/06/2015	Generally good
5.GITATHURU	27/06/2015	Best information
6.GROGON A.	29/06/2015	Risky and hostility but fairly cooperated
7.GROGON B.	29/06/2015	Fairly good
8.KISUMU NDOGO	30/06/2015	Good information from Napenda Kuishi Initiative
9.NYAYO	01/06/2015	All information Captured

## 3.0 Field Activities

### 3.1 Target and achieved survey sample

Generally, the team was targeting a total sample of 450 individuals in the whole Korogocho Location. We were able to achieve the whole number of individuals within a period of 7 days. The target was to get at least 150 individuals per sub location. However, the sub locations had unequal number of persons and therefore we had to consider that by recovering in the other sub location that had a higher number.

### 3.2 Survey sample not achieved

Some of the areas and in particular Grogon A and Grogon B are so insecure such that our team were unable to penetrate inside even with the guide. However I wish to thank the team taking all the risk to gather sufficient information from these areas.

Although our team never interviewed the required number of people per every village they made sure that they administered higher number of questioners in other areas to cover this deficit.

#### Reasons for not achieving total sample

1. In every sub location. The target sample was 150 individuals with an assumption that the population was evenly distributed.
2. However, it was found that some sub locations were bigger than others and therefore we had to capture the rest in the next sub locations.
3. Some villages could not be easily accessed due to insecurity i.e some areas hosting these drug using youths. We were fore warned before reaching those areas.

#### Summary

Sub location	Targeted sample	Target achieved	Target not achieved
Gitathuru	150	130	-20
Nyayo	150	155	+5
Korogocho	150	165	+15

### 3.3 Key challenges during Field work

- Insecurity especially threats from drug sellers and users
- Lack of community cooperation
- Insufficient resources to curb drug use
- Lack of proper support by those in power
- Lack of cooperation from the victims
- Expensive rehabilitation programmes i.e 50000 minimum for 3 months period.
- Conveying those in drug use to stop or join rehabilitation centers
- Non-corporative parents
- Impassable and bad slummed environment
- Some drug users are in their condition by choice



### **3.4 Key successes and achievements in the community**

#### **3.4.1 NAPENDA KUISHI INITIATIVE CENTER**

The Organization that is Catholic based situated in Korogocho A have been able to achieve a large number of rehabilitation victims, 60 percent of which have successively reformed, 30 percent in the process of rehabilitation and 10 percent have dropped out of which others have been shot dead in various community crimes (7-8 victims)

According to the Programme Coordinator, the programme has been effective and some victims have regained to their normal lives, however there is a lot to be done since the drugs are increasingly being accessed by the youths in the area.

#### **3.4.2 CARETAKERS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

They have been able to achieve 300 pupils living in Korogocho who have been affected either directly or indirectly by drug use in the area. Basically the school is performing well with current mean grade of 230 marks, though the environment is inhabited with high number of drug users and sellers. According to the Head teacher of the school they experience, a sample of 6/10 households is affected by drug use.

#### **3.4.3 KENWA OFFICE**

This initiative has also met some successes in reducing and curbing drug use in the area, some of their successes are;

- Some victims have completely changed their lives and gained a positive lifestyle
- Some caregivers and guardians also bring information about those selling drugs to youths and children in the community
- Early education of children between age 4-5 years who are prone to drug use
- Changes in the environment through implementation of slum upgrading process

#### **3.4.4 NGUNYUMU PRIMARY**

In collaboration with THE GOOD NEIGHBOURS INITIATIVE, they started to address issues related to drug use and selling in schools. In the year 2012, they enacted a student leadership committee which helped eradicate drugs getting into schools.

Cases of indiscipline reduced in schools and almost every pupil who used to be a victim of drugs is now performing well.

### 3.4.5 ST.JOHN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school has been collaborating with various organizations and their pupils to appeal on drug and substance use in the area. They also have meetings with parents to educate pupils on drugs and life-related issues. They train the pupils and also sponsor those drug victims who are willing to change. However, they only sponsor children who are within their schools.

### 3.4.6 GOOD NEIGHBOURS INITIATIVE KENYA

The Organization rehabilitates those who are addicted to drugs and also sponsor those who are willing to change. They also occasionally organize community forums to create awareness to the youths on matters concerning drug and substance abuse.

### 3.4.7 VOLUNTARY CHILDREN ORGANISATION (V.C.O) – KASARANI

The initiative have achieved reformation of 116 school dropouts out of 1766 who are not in school and have been affected by drug use. They also talk to parents and guardians on how to stop drug abuse in the society and also do rehabilitation and children rescue in the community as well as visit prone areas like Mukuru Dumpsite to rescue children who have been rejected.

### 3.4.8 KOCH FM RADIO

According to one of the presenters, they have various radio programs which discuss about crimes related to drug abuse in the society and in the so doing they have been able to reach many youths in the society who have reformed and now living a positive life i.e. there are those who have become Artists in various industries such as music, acting and broadcasting. They have also partnered with various communities outside korogocho e.g. Dandora, Lakisama and Babadogo on the same course.

## **4.0 Key observations by enumerators**

24/05/2015---MANDRACOS BAZE

Musa Juma (Babujii) is 15 years old and was born in Korogocho and has been in Korogocho since the year 2000. He has an artistic talent in music in rapping. We listened to his music which is all about being deceived by people for being a street child (sisi vijana wa gunia kila siku Ni hustle na watu hawatuoni, kila siku kuamka kwa takataka bila kujali watasema nini, takataka ndio chakula chetu .....)

In 2008, Babujii started sniffing petrol (ngata) through influence with friends. In 2013, he was taken to Mary Immaculate for rehabilitation but later after one year came back to Korogocho where he joined another gang. Through influence from this gang, they torched a house belonging to another colleague because of girlfriend issue. He left the gang when one of his friends was shot dead by police in a thuggery mission at

Kariobangi-Dandora roundabout. Babujii uses 'ngata', Musii and bhang to enable him do his dumpsite job which is a source of living to him. He asks for the government or any well-wisher to help him rely on his talent in music for income.

29/05/2015 KOROGOCHO B.- PARADISE BAZE-



Samuel Gitau a.k.a. Njagi (standing in front) has been living in Korogocho for 19 years. He has reached class seven but dropped due to peer influence. He started using drugs at the age of 15 years. He has been using petrol (msii), tobacco (ruara), cigarettes and bhang.

He has never stopped but at one time he was jailed for one year and this made him to stop sniffing petrol. He was in jail for stealing a cooking gas belonging to an OCS police officer. He has a family of 5 members but his parents separated and couldn't help him start a job. He works in Dandora dumpsite to earn a living.

Samuel regrets dropping out of school and suggests that given an opportunity, he would like to be trained on art and design in music.

26/05/2015- GROGON A.- HASSAN NOOR MOHAMED



Hassan was born in Kibera in a family of eleven. He started using drugs in 1990 through peer influence. He has been in korogocho since 1999. He's is a trained mechanic. He has been a drug user and peddler. He has been using C11, D5, bhang, chang'aa, syringe and cigarettes. He has been in jail for 32 months due to robbery with violence. After jail the parents had separated and he moved from his home. He goes to Dandora dumpsite to pick fortunes i.e. plastics and scrap metals for survival. He is married with 6 siblings all in children's home, 3 in Nakuru and 3 in Githurai.

Hassan's wife, who is also a drug addict, has been his challenge in surviving that's why he also uses drugs.

According to Hassan, if given an opportunity he would reform but then given an alternative to support his family.

## **5.0 List of persons met during fieldwork**

### **SUMMARY**

<b>Sub location</b>	<b>Number of males</b>	<b>Number of females</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gitathuru	55	75	130
Nyayo	65	90	155
Korogocho	85	80	165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>450</b>

## **6.0 KEY STRENGTHS**

- It was found that, some of drug users are willing to change given an opportunity and effective assistance
- There is community will to stay in a drug free environment
- The will of the community to participate in other life building activities rather than staying on drugs. Especially the youths
- Readiness of the local administration to cooperate and offers the necessary assistance.
- There has been an attempt to control and reduce drug use that requires being strengthened.
- There is an ongoing slum upgrading system which is changing the environment into being more conducive.
- The absorption of many youths into the ongoing NYS project which has reduced many key causes of drug use, i.e. idleness, lack of employment among many others.
- The newly introduced campaigns against illicit brew use in the community



## 6.1 ANNEXES

### ORGANISATION LEADERS.

NAME	INSTITUTION	POSITION	CONTACTS
1.MR. LYMOND	NAPENDA KUISHI CENTER	MANAGER	0722257544
2.CHARLES WAKA	CARETAKERS PRIMARY SCHOOL	SENIOUR TEACHER	0722726600
3.JOSEPH RWIGI	NGUNYUMU PRIMARY SCHOOL	HEADTEACHER	0722876318
4.ELANTO OTIENO	ST. JOHN PRIMARY SCHOOL	HEADTEACHER	0720068603
5.CHRISTINE OTUMA	CHILDREN DEPARTMENT OFFICER-KOROGOCHO	COORDINATOR	0721988530
6.DJ EZRA	KOCH FM	PRESENTER	0720638189
7.JOHN IRUNGU CHEGE	CHIEF'S CAMP KARIOBANGI	AREA CHIEF	0722802125
8.EDITH NYAMBURA	KENWA- OFFICE	FIELD COORDINATOR	0720728036
JOYCE MWIKALI	AMANI MSHINANI KOROGOCHO (AMKO)	CHAIRPERSON	0728963241
JENNIFER OTINI	BLUE CROSS	COORDINATOR	0723315777
MR. OMONDI	NAIROBI CITY COUNTY WARD OFFICE	ASSISTANT WARD ADMINISTRATOR	0724607505

### Annex 2 – List of field team members

NAME	FIELD POSITION	CONTACTS
1. SAMMY NDIRANGU	INTERVIEWER	0722592466
2. DANIEL K. KAIRU	GUIDE	0728864059
3. MARIAM WANJIKU	INTERVIEWER	0724234538
4.JAMES MU YA	INTERVIEWER	0724045701
5GRIFFINS C. CHEPTUM	INTERVEWER	0703462442

## **7.0 FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS**

The general scope of the study was set on the key causes, effects and the stakeholders way forwards, their feelings and personal stand and opinions. This is was as described here below:

### **7.0.1 Causes of drug and substance abuse**

- Influence;

In korogocho slums most youth and children are influenced to drug use by relatives, friends and neighbors'. This is especially when they are being sent to buy these substances from their sources. For example, some of their parents are engaged in selling chang'aa, bhang and miraa.

- Unemployment

Many youths between 18-35 years in the area don't have permanent jobs. This has led to engagement in bhang selling businesses and looking for other means of living from own created ideas i.e they decide to recide in dumpsites to get food from garbages and other materials that can cost a fortune to them.(collection of scrap-metals and plastics which they later sell.)

- General poverty

In most households, there is no other source of living; this makes it difficult for families to acquire their daily bread and basic needs. In percepytion to this, family members end up engaging in illegal businesses such as chang'aa brewing, drug selling etc, out of their will and at any possible risks.

- Idleness

There is a large group of youths reciding in korogocho area who either

1. Have completed schools and could not continue for various reason or;
2. They are school drop-outs and are not occupied
3. They have moved out of their homes for being neglected or mistreated.

- Life stresses

Some residents, especially those found to be HIV/AIDS victims end up using drugs and other substances to avoid stress and stigmatization from the society. However, a family issue such as unfaithfulness has led to increase in drug abuse and drug related cases such as suicide and seperations.

- Leisure

Some drug victims generally consume drugs for the purpose of passing time and recreational purposes. For instance, most miraa users have a normal time pattern of afternoons and weekends. There is also a perception of just staying high and relaxed all the time with a feeling that 'LIFE IS JUST AWESOME''

- Living environment

Harsh living conditions such as the Dandora dumpsite and the general slum dwellings have been a main issue to most drug users and sellers. There is a high population and available customers who are adversely in need of these substances. With many youths and earning a living from those areas, end up being influenced to drug use.

- Exposure to drug sellers and users

There are many drug peddlers who are easily accessible at any time of the day. From some informants, some business people and vendors in the streets sell drugs in their daily businesses without any trace. However, some youths are influenced by their friends who consume drugs. In addition, some of parents and guardians sell chang'aa and bhang in their homesteads making their young ones get attracted to consuming them.

- Education quality i.e high illiteracy level

Some of the parents and guardians have little or no education. This makes it difficult to have an efficient lifeskills on how to bring up their children under these poverty circumstances. However, many youths have not been able to attain highschool level education and end up dropping out of schools and engage in drug and substance abuse.

- Cheap and easy accessibility

Many drugs are cheap and easily accessible in the region, i.e bhang, chang'aa, muratina and glue. For instance, a glass of chang'aa cost at ksh. 10 and with a just ksh. 50-100, that's lasts for a day of highness. In addition, in an area of 10 households, 6 of them sell these drugs.

- Corruption i.e protection of the sellers by the authority

In our study, it was found that there is protection and cover-up of some of drug sellers. A person selling chang'aa or bhang in Grogon A/B has to pay a registration fee of upto ksh. 10000 to 'unrecognized authority officers with an addition fee of ksh. 100 weekly. However, when a victim of drug use is arrested, he/she is released on a bail of any available amount. From information given by one of the area chief, these victims and culprits cannot be taken to jail because at times their power is limited and have no control to this. "Unamchika mtu leo unampeleka polisi na kesho yake mnapatana kwa njia"( You arrest someone today and tomorrow you meet him/her a free person)

- Ignorance

Many drug users are aware of the harmful effects and consequences related to drug use. Moreover, they can highlight to you some of their experiences with drug use. The community however does not take any action to this prevailing drug use in the society.

- Poor parenting and guidance

Most parents and guardians do not take precautions when handling their children upbringing. Youth and children are left free all the time without being tamed. i.e. when not in schools, children are left to loiter alone in the streets to look for money and earn for their families.

- Family issues i.e. sickness

Some of the families have severe illness members who cannot take care for themselves and needs assistance. Some of HIV/AIDS victims and people with severe disabilities are more into drug use or drug selling.

## **7.0.2 EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCIES OF DRUG ABUSE**

- Violence

Bhang and alcohol consumption accelerates disorder and violence especially among youths. There have been cases of domestic violence with adverse effects on families. Many youths have been in conflict with the authority, families and friends which have led to enmity and gradges among them. Our research showed that some even have their territorial areas where others cannot go.

- Prostitution and early marriages

Some parents do involve young girls in selling drugs i.e. chang'aa. This is in line to

minimize the cost and especially to create more customers.

- Conflict with authority

Many youths engage themselves in crimes i.e. some carry knives and others possess guns. This brings enmity with the authority. In our research, some could even quote that they hate police with passion.

- Hallucination

This is an effect experienced mostly by bhang users. Some even end up getting mad with many cases of youths/ drug users being taken to Mathare Hospital and other rehabilitations centers.

- Addiction

Alcohol i.e. chang'aa is the most addicting drug in Korogocho. Many cannot perform or do any activity without it. Others would tell us that bhang would motivate them to perform their duties. i.e. those working in Dandora dumpsite

- Depressions

Bhang itself being a depressant causes many to feel lonely and feel being rejected by the community. This has led even to suicides and prostitution.

- Poor health

HIV/AIDS victims are prone to taking drugs. Others suffering from various ailments engage themselves to drug using in order to avoid stress and shame. Disabilities have also led to many being into drug use.

- Family conflicts

Drugs facilitate domestic violence and family disagreements. Alcohol is the key cause of family conflicts and break-ups which has led to increased number of street children.

- Loss of job and opportunities

Some of our interviewees could recite that they lost their jobs due to drug and substance abuse. Alcohol and syringe injections have the greatest percentage in causing unemployment.

- School dropping

Information, especially from the head teachers' i.e. Ngunyumu primary proved that many pupils have dropped out of school due to drug influence. Others have dropped out of school to sell drugs and earn income to support their families

- Increased poverty

Increase in drug use have led to unemployment and misuse little family income. From the study, average amount used on drugs is between ksh. 100-150 making it difficult for these victims of drugs to care for their family needs.

- Low- self esteem

Drug users develop rejection feeling. This makes them end to using drugs and living a 'don't care' life.

- Death

There have been various cases of many people dying from consuming harmful alcoholic beverages. Others smoke bhang and use other drugs and die in various crimes such as rape cases and stealing.

### **7.0.3 POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND WAYFORWARDS**

- Government intervention
- Community intervention
- Creation of awareness and sensitization
- Counseling
- Creation of employment and job ideas to youths
- Rehabilitation centers
- Creation of a good living environment
- Ban the selling of alcohol, bhang and sedatives (sniffed petrol)
- Creation of heavy penalties to sellers and users
- Improve education level and parenting mechanism
- Creation of more rehabilitation centers

### **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Sensitization to create awareness on importance on dangers and effects associated drug use to users and the community in general.
- The community should be sensitized to drop both social and cultural beliefs which are outdated and are causes of drug use
- More personnel should be hired to implement and run rehabilitation and awareness programmes in the community.
- Provide adequate and timely resources to all actors and well-wishers of the community
- Educate community on drug and substance abuse through involvement of all stakeholders.
- Creation of more rehabilitation centers to cater for the large number of drug users in the community.
- Enhancing the networking of the organizations and initiatives that holds same objectives.
- Review of bills related to drug selling and abuse and creating strong penalties to reduce this problem.

### **9.0 CONCLUSIONS**

General observation is that in all nine villages, the abuse of drugs is very high and the addiction is far too worrying. From the research out of 10 households 8 of them are directly or indirectly affected by this problem. Many people have died of drugs related illness and more so most of the crime committed in Korogocho and its neighboring estates are as a result to drug abuse. However almost all the interviewed persons were happy and appreciative to this research with hope that their recommendations will be implemented and effective change seen within the community soon? Majority want the drug abuse to be eradicated completely from the community and the whole country at large. Drugs and substance abuse has been a key hindrance to the development



and growth of the Korogocho community with serious effects on women, the youths and children. However, crimes rates are at higher percentage due to drug usage. The Government and all other stakeholders must come together to root out this vice from the community once and for all.











Head teacher Caretakers Primary



Director Caretakers Primary School



Head teacher St John's Primary



Head teacher Ngunyumu Primary





DJ Ezra Koch Fm Radio



David Okoth Good neighbors Initiative