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Influence of Drug Substance on Conduct Disorders Among Children at Manga Institution, Kisii, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

The prevalence of global conduct disorder (CD) among juvenile offenders ranges from 2 to 10%, making it a significant problem. This study sought to investigate the influence of drug and substance abuse on conduct disorder among young offenders. The study used a descriptive research design. There were 250 target populations. 68 juvenile offenders were chosen as sample size using basic random and census sampling techniques. A modified CDS questionnaire and interview guide aimed at FGDS participants and key informants were used to collect primary data. Descriptive accounts were used, and SPSS was used to evaluate the qualitative data. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used to analyze quantitative data, and tables and figures were used to display the findings. The study's findings, the majority of participants (68.3%) were first-time offenders, and they hardly ever had symptoms of a serious conduct issue. However, there was a substantial, positive, and significant ($p<0.05$) association between CD and family variables ($r=0.797$), drug and substance misuse ($r=0.906$), ADHD ($r=0.895$) among juvenile offenders, the results also showed that conduct disorder was positively and statistically significantly impacted by the independent variables that were utilized in the study, including drugs and substance misuse.

INTRODUCTION

Today's youth suffer from Conduct Disorder (CD), a severe and worldwide problem that contributes to criminal activity and actions that endanger the aspirations and futures of young people (Omwenga & Mwangi, 2024). In recent years, this problem has grown at a startling rate (Choi, Kim, Kim, & Kim, 2017). The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) published by the American Psychological Association (APA) defines conduct disorder (CD) as a pattern of regularly and persistently violating the fundamental rights of others and/or important age-appropriate social norms and standards Examples of this include delinquency/truancy, property destruction, dishonesty/theft, and aggressive behavior against people and animals (Adewuya, Famuyiwa & Bakari, 2017). Additionally, the DSM-V defines behavior disorder (Omwenga & Mwangi, 2024). The American Psychological Association (2023) states that depending on how severe the symptoms are, a conduct disorder can be categorized as mild, moderate, or severe. This standard shows how to recognize a conduct disorder. In addition to intimidating, bullying, or threatening people, it frequently results in violence (Baglivio, Wolff, Howell, Jackowski, & Greenwald, 2020).

A corrective juvenile judicial system handles juvenile criminal offenses, particularly for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 7, according to Okutoyi (2015). To rehabilitate and reintegrate juveniles into society, the system focuses on legal issues surrounding them. Facilitating the rehabilitation of young people who have committed crimes before their reintroduction into society is the goal of the juvenile justice department (Bath, Barnert, Godoy, Hammond, Mondals, Farabee, & Grella, 2020). According to Zelechoski, Sharma, Beserra, Miguel, DeMarco, & Spinazzola (2016), a large number of research do not concentrate on a variety of mental health issues that are thought to be

precursors to hullabaloos, such as future personality disorders and childhood self-harm.

Juveniles with conduct disorders thus struggle to manage their emotions and behaviors, which severely disrupts their lives (Donisch et al., 2016). The importance of this assumption in the study is explained by the fact that, in comparison to children without conduct disorders, 3.2% of male children whose conduct disorder started at a young age had anxiety disorders, 7.8% drink alcohol, and 2.7% commit crimes (Frick, 2021). This reverses the effects of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, which is associated with psychopathic traits and a high likelihood of antisocial conduct in adolescence. 15% to 18% of patients suffer from anxiety disorders, 23% of school-aged children suffer from depression, and 35% of youngsters have conduct difficulties (Kim, 2017).

Globally, between 2% to 10% of young people worldwide suffer from conduct disorder, with Kenya reporting a prevalence rate of 31.4%. The number of juvenile offenders behind bars has risen by over 60% from 6,318 in 2008 to 13,108 per 100,000 young offenders in 2010, according to statistics data. According to these sources, conduct disorder is a serious social and health issue that has been thoroughly studied (Coghill, 2021). Coker et al. (2017) investigated the relationship between self-reported criminal activity and psychiatric disorders in a sample representative of the United States. The study found that young people with ADHD and comorbid conduct disorder had significantly higher crime rates than those without these conditions (MacCormick et al., 2023). Numerous studies have demonstrated that children with ADHD are more likely to engage in criminal activity, according to the findings of Fletcher and Wang (2017). In contrast, Sibly et al. (2017) conducted a large study in children with ADHD to investigate the risk for conduct disorder and a variety of other long-term negative outcomes, such as criminal activity. Similarly, studies have shown that integrated therapy is a successful approach for co-occurring disorders such as ADHD and anxiety, as well as ADHD and substance use issues (Coghill et al., 2021). There is sufficient evidence to suggest that ADHD increases the likelihood of oppositional defiant disorder as a precursor to conduct disorder, which in turn increases the risk of early-onset conduct disorder (Boitt, 2016). Examine how conduct disorders among young offenders at Manga Institution are impacted by drug and substance usage.

METHODS

The study used a descriptive research design, which included both qualitative and quantitative aspects of the research. The study target population was 250, which consisted of 225 juvenile offenders aged between 13 and 17 years old, 5 administrators, 12 trainers (Wardens, mechanics, electrical, carpentry, teachers), and 8 Welfare officers/ counselors from this study center as indicated. The study utilized both a simple random sampling and a census sampling approach (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). 225 juvenile offenders made up the unit of analysis out of the total number of juvenile delinquents. For the research, 68 juvenile delinquents were chosen at random from the pool of 225 available in order to participate.

The researcher designed a questionnaire consisting of closed-ended questions for the questionnaire and verbal interviews that were conducted with the respondents in order to gather source information that would assist the researcher in corroborating the findings obtained from the questionnaires. One focus group discussion was also carried out for this study, and seven participants were recruited from a variety of industries. Both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were applied in the analysis of the collected data. A regression analysis was carried out in order to ascertain and verify the nature of the connection that exists between the variables that are considered independent and the variables that are considered dependent. According to Saunders et al. (2009), the t-test was utilized in multiple regressions to determine the probability of the relationship between each of the individual independent variables and the dependent variable.

Ethics and Consideration

The introduction letter was acquired from Pwani University's post-graduate studies school and the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) granted a research letter and permission to conduct the study. The Nairobi headquarters of the Department of Prisons granted the researcher authorization to conduct a study in the chosen Borstal institutions. Parental

consent was also given to conduct a study on their children.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent's Response Rate

There were 63 (92.65%) responses from juvenile offenders, and the surveys were correctly completed and sent back. Five of the questionnaires were filled out incorrectly or with missing information. Because this response rate supports Haerle, (2016), claim that a response rate of 50% or more is enough for data analysis, it was sufficient to analyze the study. According to Creswell, data analysis can be done with a response rate of 50% or more. The trainers, welfare/counselors, and administrators all participated 100% of the time, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Response Rate

Target group	Instruments issue	duly filled	Incomplete	Return rate (%)
Juvenile offenders	68	63	5	92.64
Welfare officers/counselors	8	8	0	100
Trainers	12	12	0	100
Administrators	5	5	0	100

Source: Field data, 2023

Respondents' Age

The study sought to establish the age of the respondents. 83.9% of the juvenile offenders were between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, 10.8% were over the age of 20, and 5.4% were between the ages of 11 and 15 years old. According to the findings of the study, 83.9% of the juvenile delinquents with conduct disorders who were housed at Manga Institution were between the ages of 13 and 17 years old. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Age of respondents at Manga Institution

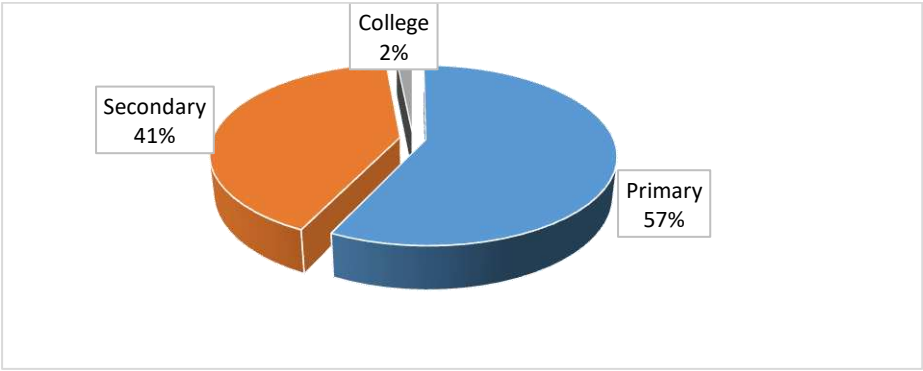
Age (Years)	Frequency	Percent
11-12	5	5.4
13-17	78	83.9
Over 20	10	10.8
Total	93	100.0

Source: Field data, 2023

Respondents' Level of Education at Manga Institution

The study sought to find out the juvenile offenders' level of education. 41% of the respondents had finished their secondary school, 2% had finished their elementary education, and 57% of the respondents had finished their primary education. This suggested that CD was more common among juvenile offenders in the Borstal institution than among students in elementary, middle, and high school, respectively. The findings are presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1. The highest level of education attained by the juvenile offenders

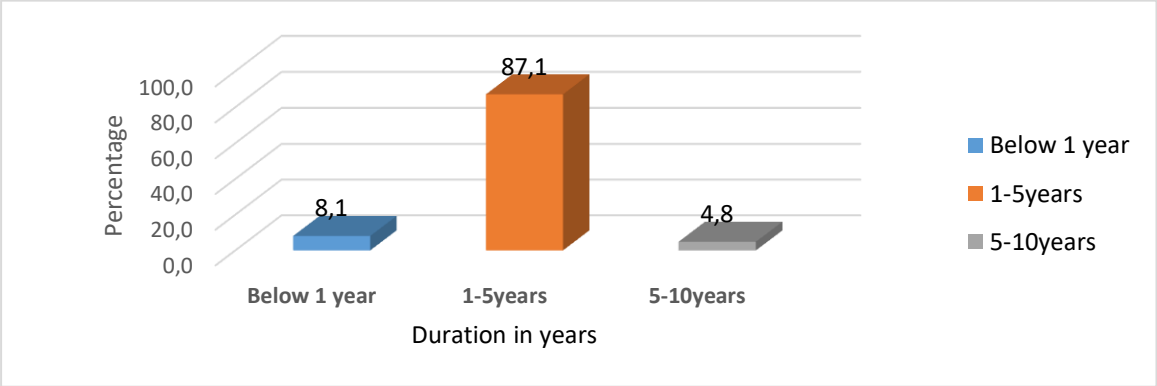


Source: Field data, 2023

Length of Sentence Among Young Offenders at Borstal Institution

The study sought to find out the length of sentences of the respondents in Manga Institution. Shows that 87.1% of the juvenile offenders had sentences that ranged between 1-5 years, 8.1% had sentences that were less than 1 year, and 4.8% had sentences that were between 5-10 years. This suggests that juvenile offenders have a propensity to commit additional offenses that are in violation of the law. The findings are presented in Figure 2.

Figure 1. Respondents' length of sentence

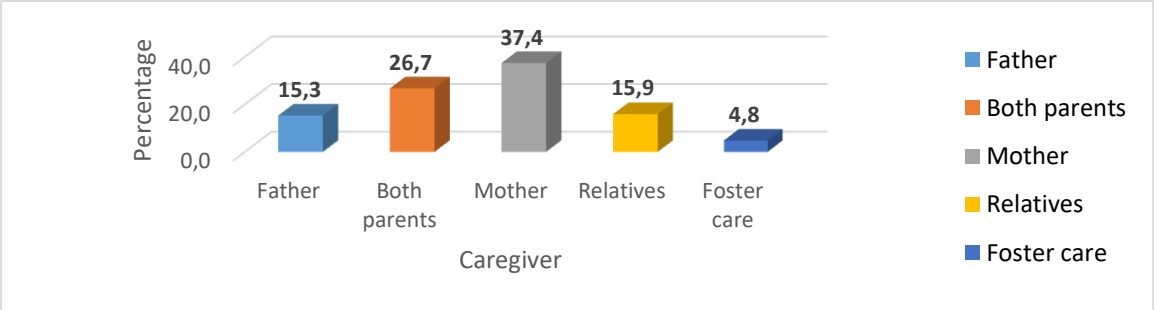


Source: Field data, 2023

Parenting of Children at Manga Institution

The goal of the study was to ascertain how the juvenile criminal at the Manga institution was raised. The study found that those juvenile offenders at Manga institution who were brought up by foster care (4.8%) experienced conduct disorder the least, followed by those who were brought up by relatives (15.9%), then, those who were brought up by their fathers only (15.3%), and finally, those who were brought up by both parents (26.7% of the juvenile offenders) had the second-highest level of conduct disorder at Manga institution. The findings are illustrated in Table 3.

Figure 2. Parenting of young offenders at Borstal institution

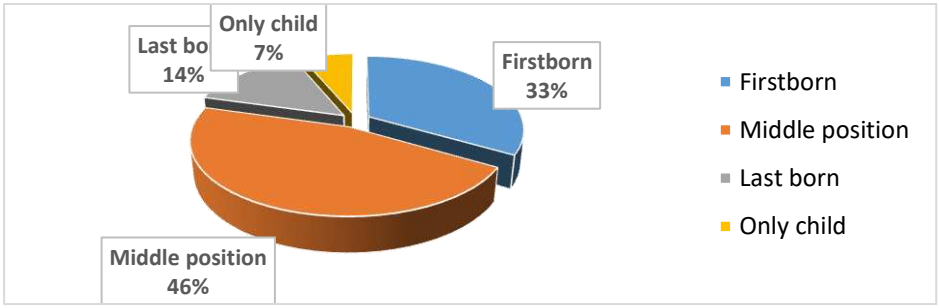


Source: Field data, 2023

Family Position of Juvenile Offender and Conduct Disorder

The study sought to find out the position of the young offenders at the Borstal institution in their families about conduct disorder. According to research, the majority of young offenders at Manga Institution were middle-aged (46%), firstborn (33%), lastborn (14%), and only child (7%) in their families. The study's conclusions showed that the juvenile offenders at Manga institution with the greatest degrees of behavior disorder were those who held the middle rank in their families. Lola, Belete, Gebeyehu, Zerihun, Yimer, and Leta (2019) found a strong correlation between ADHD, low family status, and having a birthing order. Figure 4 presents the outcome.

Figure 4. Young offenders' position in the family

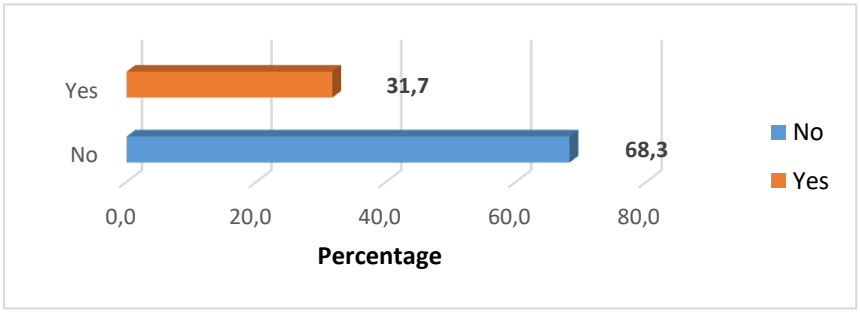


Source: Field data, 2023

Previous History of Detention

The study wanted to determine whether the juvenile offenders had a history of detention. According to the report, 31.7% of the juvenile offenders at Shikusa Borstal's facility had prior incarceration, whereas 68.3% had none at all. As a result, the great majority of young criminals residing at the Manga institution had never been imprisoned for a conduct problem before. Consequently, among other reasons for their incarceration, they were first-time offenders because of behavior problems. Figure 5 illustrates the results of the study.

Figure 3. Previous history of detention of young offenders



Source: Field data, 2023

Examine the Influence of Drug and, Substance Abuse and, Conduct Disorder

The study sought to assess the influence of drug and substance abuse on conduct disorder. The research found that the individuals incarcerated at Manga had a mean level of 2.40 for their desire to use drugs or substances, with a standard deviation of 1.42. Using drugs and substances even when it puts one in danger in the Manga institution had a mean of 2.13 with a standard deviation of 1.314. Neglecting other aspects of life because of drug abuse and substance use had a mean of 2.79 with a standard deviation of 1.370. Taking drugs and, substances in larger amounts or longer than you are meant to in the Manga institution had a mean of 2.22 with a standard deviation of 1.288. These findings were consistent with those found by Hopfer et al. (2023), who discovered that increased use of all substances was linked with increased instances of behavioral disorders among community members.

Table 3. Drug and substance abuse on conduct disorder

	n	Mean	Std. Deviation
Craving to use drugs or substance use.	63	2.40	1.420
Take drugs and substances in larger amounts or longer than you are meant to.	63	2.22	1.288
Using drugs and substances even when it puts one in danger.	63	2.13	1.314
Neglecting other parts of life because of drug abuse and substance use.	63	2.79	1.370

Source: Field data, 2023

Association between drugs and substance abuse and conduct disorder At Manga Institution, the hypothesis examined the relationship between drugs, substance misuse, and conduct disorders among young offenders

H0: The conduct disorder of juvenile offenders at the Shikusa Bistro facility is not significantly impacted by drugs or substance usage.

H1: Substance abuse and drug use have a major impact on the conduct disorder of young offenders at Shikusa Bistro.

Simple regression between drug use and substance abuse and behavioral disorders in juvenile offenders was used to explore this hypothesis as shown in table 6.

Table 4. Goodness of fit model for drug and substance abuse on conduct disorder

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.906[a]	0.821	0.816	0.444

a. Predictors: (Constant), Drug and substance abuse
Source: Field Data, 2023

The results indicate a link between substance addiction, including drug abuse, and behavior disorders. In the univariate version, the independent variable (drugs and substance misuse) may account for 81.6% of the conduct disorder, according to an adjusted R-Squared of 0.816. In contrast, other factors that are not part of this model can only account for 18.4% of the conduct disorder. This indicates that 81.6% of the conduct disorder may be explained by the independent variable. Drug and other substance misuse and behavior disorders are positively correlated, according to a correlation coefficient of 0.906.

Table 5. ANOVA table for drug and substance abuse on conduct disorder

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	32.393	1	32.393	279.25	.000[b]
	Residual	7.081	61	0.116		
	Total	39.474	62			

a. Dependent Variable: Conduct disorder, b. Predictors: (Constant), Drug and substance abuse
Source: Field Data, 2023

Regression Coefficients (Drugs and Substance Abuse)

An analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to ascertain whether the regression model is statistically significant overall. The null hypothesis for this test was that the independent variables had no capacity to explain anything (1=0). Table 8 presents the results of the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for the regression coefficient. The research revealed that R-squared is considerably higher than zero, as indicated by the p-value of 0.001. Consequently, a significant amount of the variability linked to conduct disorder can be explained by our predictor. The significance of the p-value enables the study to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis, leading us to conclude that the predictor has explanatory power (10). Consequently, the regression model's significance may be verified (F (1, 62) = 279.25, p 0.001).

Table 6. Regression coefficients (Drugs and substance abuse)

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	0.43	0.248		1.734	0.091
	Drug and substance abuse (DSA)	0.863	0.067	0.906	12.833	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Conduct disorder
Source: Field Data, 2023

X2= Drug and substance abuse (DSA);
Y= Conduct disorder
Y = 0.430 + 0.863X2

The results of the linear regression showed that substance misuse and drugs had an impact on conduct disorder. Accordingly, while all other variables remain the same, a unit increase in drug and substance misuse would result in a 0.863-point rise in conduct disorder.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the study's findings, young offenders had a desire to use drugs or other substances. Because of this, the researchers concluded that the third goal was not achieved (mean score of 2.40). Additionally, the study discovered that the juvenile offenders were abusing drugs and substances in greater amounts or for longer periods than is advised (2.22), using drugs and substances even when doing so puts them in danger, and neglects other facets of their lives as a result of drug and substance abuse (2.79). The relationship between substance and drug misuse and behavioral issues in the Manga institution was strong, positive, and noteworthy.

Drug and substance misuse was found to have a high and positive connection with conduct disorder (r=0.906), in a similar way to demographic characteristics. According to this research, the degree of conduct disorder rose in direct proportion to the level of drug and substance usage. Additionally, there is a strong correlation between substance abuse and conduct disorder; that is, when all other factors are held constant, an increase of one point in drug abuse is linked to an increase of 0.863% points in conduct disorder. The study's conclusions show a strong, positive, and statistically significant correlation between drug and substance misuse and conduct problems among juvenile offenders.

In order to counsel and encourage young people to behave in a constructive way, the government and other officials should collaborate to create programs and methods. As a result, there would be fewer juvenile offenders since it would be simpler for young people to alter their social behaviors. This is why, if at all possible, primary prevention or secondary or tertiary prevention, depending on the situation must be achieved through further research, as well as the development and application of reliable strategies that are adapted to the socio-family and environmental context in general. Further study is necessary to accomplish effective primary prevention, as is the development and application of reliable interventions that are adapted to the broader socio-family and environmental context.

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