



Awareness, Knowledge and Attitude of Southeast Residents on the Abuse of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride Drugs

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Abstract

This study examined awareness, knowledge and attitude of Southeast public towards the youth's abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs. The objectives of the study were among others to ascertain the level of awareness among Southeast public in the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs. The study made use of analytical descriptive survey design. The population of the study consisted of all the residents of five (5) Southeast States which were Abia, Anambra, Ebony, Enugu and Imo States. The population figure for the study is 22,012,828. The sample size for the study was 408 using Taro Yamane mathematical formula. The study adopted multi-stage sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire and 400 copies of questionnaire were found valid. The data were analysed using the mean, standard deviation and rank order. Findings from the study revealed that majority of the respondents have heard, watched and read about the Methamphetamine hydrochloride drug; the strata of people associated with the abuse of the drug were more of youths; the reasons for the abuse of the drug were due to highness, increase of libido, peer influence and medication for depression and control of obesity, and the level of awareness among southeast public was very high. The study concluded that public enlightenment as passing information to the public in order to create awareness about health issues (methamphetamine hydrochloride drug) plays a significant role in the society. The study recommended that the Southeast public should put more efforts in sensitisation of methamphetamine hydrochloride drug since health awareness is a key to its effectiveness as a catalyst for change.

Keywords: Awareness, knowledge, attitude, methamphetamine, hydrochloride drugs.

Introduction

Methamphetamine hydrochloride kills and that is the truth of life (Karila et al., 2010). The drug falls under the class of drugs called speed which is a street name for various stimulant drugs that teens, young adults and others perceive to make them feel more alert and focused, and in some cases, to feel high. The drug also called Methamphetamine or crystal Meth, a highly addictive stimulant drug similar to cocaine which is now on high abuse by Nigerian youths. The abuse is seen in all parts of Nigeria (Karila, et al., 2010). However, in Igbo communities, it has assumed a notorious dimension and is fast destroying the youths. This destructive substance has in fact become popular among Igbo youths that it is now nick-named *Mkpuru*

Mmiri, literally translated as blocked water or ice block. Its negative effect is such that after its consumption, they engage in criminal and immoral acts detrimental to the society at large. The notoriety of the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride is such that it has attracted the attention of the members of Imo state House of Assembly who discussed it on the floor of the House and suggested that the State Ministry of Health runs a vigorous media campaign against its intake (*Vanguard*, 2021).

Methamphetamine hydrochloride is also taken recreationally, often mixed with other drugs. Despite the sought-after, short-term effects of some forms of speed, all forms of speed are dangerous and addictive. Noting the increasing damage the drug is causing the youths, the Imo House of Assembly also called on Governor Hope Uzodimma to constitute a stake committee that will work with National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), to tackle the dangerous dimension it has already assumed in many Igbo communities (*Vanguard*, 2021). They further suggested that the ministry of Health be mandated to educate the youths on the use of the illicit drug (*Vanguard*, 2021). Also, Enugu students have commenced a campaign against the drug. It is a common sight to see addicts on the streets of South-East communities. Some of them incoherently walking the street naked or half naked. Young men of twenties can be mainly seen looking haggard and unkempt, perhaps they may be victims of the drug. They entirely operate on a different level from normal human beings. Viral videos are circulated on daily basis from various communities in the South-East, of victims of the drug, with their attendant abnormal behaviours. Some of them were reported to have killed their parents, siblings or burnt their houses under the influence of the drugs. Under the influence of drug, they respect nobody, look down on whoever they come across and nobody meant anything to them (*Vanguard*, 2021).

Marshal and Werb (2010), as at 2019 stated that, the drug was said to be more costly than cocaine and that its Africa production was rated highly in the international drug market. Little did anyone know that the drug was also consumed in Nigeria which would later become the destroyer of youths, particularly in the Southeast. Many Igbo communities are currently facing the dangerous effects of the drug and youths are into it, and incidentally, they have become a burden to their families and communities as some of them were reported to have killed or maimed members of their family because the drug is said to affect the brain adversely (*Vanguard*, 2021). Aside from being unable to sleep and violent, users exhibit anti-social behaviours arising from paranoia and hallucination. The drug takes a toll on the physical look of its users. It typically makes them look older and their faces prone to acne – sometimes, excessive use leads to damaged gum and teeth, commonly called Meth mouth. What is most frightening that Meth addiction is one of the most difficult to treat because no drug can cure it, except by behavioural therapy which at the moment, is not readily available in the country. Since the launch of the offensive action campaign early this year, NDLEA has recorded significant seizures of kilograms of the drug. Likewise, the Agency has located and destroyed not less than 18 Meth producing laboratories in the country in the past few years (*Vanguard*, 2021).

The Agency has been monitoring the trend in Meth production, abuse and trafficking. And because of the rampant abuse and production of the drug, especially in the South-East, the Chairman/CEO recently gave specific instructions to relevant directorates of the Agency or how the agency should respond to the development (*The Guardian*, 2021). Questions are still being asked how the drug became popular in the South-East region of Nigeria. The rate at which it has spread across most towns and even remote villages is unbelievable. It was even suspected that the hard drug contributed in no small measure to the problem of the unknown gunmen in parts of the South-East in recent time, particularly in Anambra State before the recent governorship election in the state (*The Guardian*, 2021). Some people actually believe that only people who take such drugs could be killing people and destroying property without any provocation and without showing remorse in Anambra State. For instance, the drug has become a house hold name in such communities like Obosi, Enugwu Ukwu, Agukwu, Agulu, Okija, Uli, Awka, Nteje, Awkuzu, Umueri, Umudioka and many more. In the countries where Methamphetamine hydrochloride has become common, rape has also become rampant as it is believed that the drug increases the libido of the affected youths.

Another surprising thing is that some women also indulge in it and in their case, the result is usually madness (*The Guardian*, 2021).

Communities are waging aggressive war against Methamphetamine. Currently, some communities have started identifying those who peddle the drug in their areas and are banishing them, while their youths who were known to be taking it are publicly punished by flogging them in village squares. For instance, the Umudioka improvement union in Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra State has proscribed the sale and consumption of all illicit drugs and substances in the community and warned those still undertaking such business to desist forthwith as they stood the risk of being arrested and proscribed with the support of the relevant security agencies. In Okija, Ihiala Local government Area, youths of the community in the early month of November, 2021 marched through the major roads to drive home their full commitment towards eradicating the menace of cultism which is linked to drug abuse, particularly methamphetamine hydrochloride in the town. Some stakeholders from the town joined in the campaign during which they warned that anyone found guilty would be seriously dealt with. Several communities have also taken similar measures, but it is left to be seen how effective the measures would be. The traditional ruler of Oriendu autonomous community, Umuahia North Local Government Area, Abia State, Eze Philip Ajomiwe has decried the devastating effects of the drug and other hard drugs among the youths (*The Guardian*, 2021). There are other substances such as tramadol, opium and cannabis the youth mix and consume which do a lot of damage to their organs. They feel those things they sip give them energy but it is gradually eating them up. That is why youths develop kidney stones, heart disease and even strokes in recent times (*The Guardian*, 2021). Dr. Okwuonu advocated aggressive campaign and sensitisation against the harmful effects of Methamphetamine and other harmful drugs to save the future of our youths. He also urged State Houses of Assembly to legislate against the harmful drug so that the distributors and consumers could be punish as deterrent to others (*Vanguard*, 2021).

Addicts can take Methamphetamine by smoking, sniffing, swallowing, snorting or injecting the powder that has been dissolved in water or alcohol. The “high” from the drug starts and fades quickly, people often take repeated doses in a binge and crash pattern. In some cases, people take Methamphetamine as a “run” giving up food and sleep while continuing to take the drug every few hours for up to several days. Taking even small amounts of Methamphetamine can result in the same health effects as taking cocaine or amphetamines. These include increased wakefulness and physical activity, decreased appetite, faster breathing, rapid and or irregular heart-beat and increased blood pressure and body temperature with little or no advance warning from the mass media. In fact, the use of certain drugs, (particularly the psychoactive drugs such as Crystal Methamphetamine) has reached a dimension which is now considered or observed as an abuse and which poses a serious threat to social harmony ,or the health and well-being among members of society. It is in reaction to this, that implementation to ensure the reduction of the availability and abuse of such drugs by various methods including legislation, punishment, rehabilitation, public enlightenment, education etc. The foregoing lends credence to the fact that public health has in recent times become a subject of planetary concern. The least that mass media can do in this regard, is to vigorously raise attention to the plausibility of the logic of awareness and drive for action (preventive measure) through messages. In other words, the ideology of preventive measure offers the mass media a veritable platform for message awareness. Therefore, the study is set to find out the extent of awareness, knowledge and attitude of Southeast public towards the youths’ abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs.

Statement of the Problem

Drug abuse has become a lifestyle to some persons in the society. Today, drug abuse is major problems worldwide as its extent and characteristics, however, vary from region to region, and trends among the youths. Methamphetamine hydrochloride and other drug related problems are becoming more and more a

public health concern. But in all, the broadcast media seems to be doing little or nothing to curb the menace, since its concern is hinged more on commercial contents. Thus, the abuse of drugs represents one of the leading causes of preventable death, illness and injury. This abuse is believed to be associated with increasing amounts consumed, frequency of use and group involved, it is incumbent on the media to do more of public advocacy to end the menace but it seems they are not proactive, the less-active involvement of the television and radio stations in Southeast region of Nigeria is an issue which this study is concerned about. Drug abuse is the primary reason why many people are rehabilitated in psychiatric homes and in prison, as well as a source of crime and health problem in our society today.

Unfortunately, while it is pretty easy to start the use of illicit drugs and become addicted, combating the threat of drugs addition is not a piece of cake, especially for narcotic like Meth that can be accessed by users with relative ease. . In other words, the ideology of preventive measure offers the mass media a veritable platform for message awareness, knowledge and change towards attitude. Methamphetamine hydrochloride is a new drug unlike cocaine, Indian hemp etc. there is the need to find out the level of awareness because many do not know the effects or consequences on the youths. There has not been organised advocacy, nobody knows the extent the media are helping in creating awareness. Studies have been done on the fight against abuse generally, little or no studies have been done on methamphetamine drug awareness, knowledge and attitude of southeast public. It is therefore the thrust of this study to assess the awareness, knowledge and attitude of Southeast public towards the youths' abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study was to examine the awareness, knowledge and attitude of southeast public towards the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Ascertain the level of awareness among Southeast public in the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs;
2. Examine the extent of knowledge acquired by the southeast public on the consequences of the drug abuse on communication sources;
3. Find out the attitude of Southeast public towards public enlighten on the abuse of the methamphetamine Hydrochloride drugs.

Review of Literature

Media Campaign against Drugs Abuse

According to Dominick (2019), a campaign consists of a large number of advertisements, stressing the same major theme or appeal that appears in a number of media over a specified time. Media campaigns are widely used to expose high proportions of large population to messages through routine use of existing media such as television, radio and newspapers. Campaigns have been employed to affect different health behaviours in large populations. Wakefield et al. (2010) state that it is a result of the force in campaigns that environmental communicators seek to harness this powerful force to inform and change public opinion, but often, this power is quite difficult to be used effectively. In some cultures, people are bombarded with over many advertising messages per day. What would make a message stand out among competition? According to Sandman (2010), a team of creative people should work with content experts putting into consideration the implications of the message and that every element of the campaign should be pretested with the intended audience to avoid miscommunication. There are many examples of media products that were distributed broadly before the organizers realize they are not communicating the desired message. Evidently, campaigns can be of short period of time or of long duration. In the same vein, they might stand alone or be combined with other organised programmers like clinical health or institutional outreach or may complement policy change. Therefore, various ways of disseminating campaign messages are employed, if health campaigns are part of brooders social marketing programmers (Wakefield, et al., 2010). It is common to hear people discussing and making reference to what they have heard over the radio, watched on

television or read in the newspapers. The information given out by the mass media are usually for the consumption of the citizens of a particular society, the write ups in all facets of life are done to arouse the interest or curiosity of the citizen.

Mass media campaigns are aimed primarily to change knowledge, awareness and attitudes, contributing to the goal of changing behaviour. It is a tool for promoting public health and is being widely used to expose high proportions of large populations to message through routine uses of existing media, such as television, radio, newspapers etc one medium cannot effectively carryout a campaign. Ihejirika (2011) points out that no one medium alone can carry out the functions of media in society. They can be truly effective tools when they are adequately employed, effectively utilised and professionally managed. Nigeria and other developing countries today are marked by poverty and other challenges. One of the elements that can help create conditions and accelerate development of these nations is the provision of information and knowledge which could be carried out through campaigns. People need information to make decisions and improve their situation. Members of the public, youths especially, need to be duly informed about the danger of drug abuse, its effects and, most importantly, the consequences.

Theoretical framework

The functionalist Theory of Attitudes

The theoretical foundation of this study was hinged on functionalist theory of attitude. This theory entered the literature in the 1950s when researchers developed the idea that attitudes served varying psychological needs and thus had variable motivational bases. The functionalist theory of attitudes was proposed by Daniel Katz (Williams, 2014). A fundamental question about attitudes that this theory puts forward concerns their purpose: That is, what functions do attitudes serve? According to Katz attitudes are determined by the functions they serve for us. People hold given attitudes because these attitudes help them achieve their basic goals. Katz's functionalist theory also offers an explanation as to why attitudes change. According to Katz, an attitude changes when it no longer serves its function and the individual feels blocked or frustrated. That is, according to Katz, attitude change is achieved not so much by changing a person's information or perception about an object, but rather by changing the person's underlying motivational and personality needs. For example as one's social status increases or one becomes more enlightened about online shopping, one's attitudes toward one's method of shopping may change – one would need something that better reflects ones new status (Simonson & Maushak, 2011). The current study wishes to investigate audience attitudes toward information on methamphetamine hydrochloride drug having in mind and trying also to prove that these attitudes are there due to certain benefits sought or disappointments experienced.

Empirical Review

Adogu, et al., (2015) did a study on awareness, knowledge, perception and attitude towards prescription medicines abuse among medicines prescribers and dispensers in Nnewi Nigeria. The objective of this study was to assess awareness, knowledge, perception and attitudes toward the abuse of prescription medicines (PM) among medicines prescribers and dispensers in Nigeria. Data were collected through self-completed questionnaire and three hundred and seventy-five participants were recruited for this study. Data analysis was done using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17 for windows was used for data analysis. Bivariate and multivariate analyses were carried out to evaluate differences and associations based on selected variables. Results: The perception was high among respondents that PM abuse was a problem in the community. Knowledge of health problems associated with PM abuse was also high while the attitude of the respondents towards early detection of PM abuse among their patients/clients was discouraging. However the study concluded that attitude of the respondents towards early detection of PM abuse among their patients/clients is poor and discouraging. Lack of time especially by doctors, failure of clients to adhere to counsel by health workers, lack of continuing education and lack of necessary skills constitute barriers to counseling against PM abuse. The study recommended that early intervention is meant

to provide doctors and other health care professional with the necessary tools to detect PM abuse in its early stages.

Ojebuji and Salawu (2015) did a paper on decongesting the dodgy hub: the role of mass media in curtailing illicit drug trafficking and use in Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine the role that mass media can play or are supposed to play, and the relevant mass media campaign strategies that can be used to curtail the menace of drug abuse and trafficking in Nigeria. This study, after presenting some statistics on the prevalence of drug problems in Nigeria, suggested that the nation's mass media should be more aggressively involved in fighting trafficking and use of illicit drugs in the country. The paper discussed different social change strategies that the Nigerian mass media could adopt to fight drug-related vices. However, the researchers recommended that these media campaigns should be effectively complemented with other communication approaches.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey design. The population of this study consisted of the residents of five (5) South-East States which are Abia State, Anambra State, Ebony State, Enugu State and Imo State formed the population for this study of the five states. According to the National Bureau of Statistics projection` of Southeast states population in 2019: Abia- 3,841,943; Anambra- 5,599,910; Ebony- 3,007,155; Enugu- 4,396,098 and Imo- 5,167,722. The total population of the southeast states stood at 22,012,828 (fifteen million, nine hundred and thirty-one thousand, nine hundred and forty-two). The sample size for this study was 408 through Taro Yamane mathematical formula and the study adopted the multi-stage sampling technique. The first stage, the population was divided into clusters – Abia, Anambra, Ebony, Enugu and Imo States. The second stage was stratified proportionate sampling of different clusters based on percentage representation. The next stage the stratified of the population into states capitals and cities and actual administration of copies of questionnaire to each cluster involved the accidental sampling techniques. 408 copies of questionnaire were distributed and 400 copies were valid and used for analysis. The study made use of questionnaire for data collection and data were analysed using the descriptive and inferential statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion

Research Question 1: What is the level of awareness among Southeast public in the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs?

Table 1: Heard, Watched or Read about Mkpuru Mmiri (Methamphetamine Hydrochloride) Drugs Abuse in Southeast

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	400	100%
No	0	0%
Partially	0	0%
Total	400	100%

From the Table 1, all the respondents accepted to have heard, watched or read about Mkpuru Mmiri (Methamphetamine hydrochloride) drugs abuse in Southeast

Table 2: Strata of People Associated with the Abuse of the Drug

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage
More of Youths	172	43%
More of senior citizens	98	25%
More of men	78	19%
More of women	32	8%
Others	20	5%
Total	400	100%

As indicated in the table above, majority of the respondents agreed that the strata of people associated with the abuse were more of youths.

Table 3: To what intensity you Heard, Watched or Read about the Drug

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	240	60%
High	122	31%
Low	25	6%
Very Low	13	3%
Total	400	100%

From the above table, majority of the respondents heard, watched or read about the drug to a very high intensity.

Table 4: The Reasons the Drug is Abuse

Options	No of Respondents	Percentage
Increases libido	78	20%
Peer influence	52	13%
Highness	220	55%
Control of depression and obesity	50	12%
Total	400	100%

From the above table, out of the total number of respondents sampled, majority of the respondents indicated highness as the reason for drug abuse.

Research Question 2: What is the extent of knowledge the Southeast public has acquired about the consequences of methamphetamine hydrochloride?

Table 5: Level of Knowledge Southeast Public acquired on Consequences of Drug Abuse

Options	Number of respondents	Percentage	Remarks
Hallucination	382	96%	Very high level
Suicide	329	82%	Very high level
Weight loss	392	98%	Very high level
Deficit thinking	253	63%	High level
Reduce stress	175	44%	Low level
Aid sleep	192	48%	Low level
Feel good	102	26%	Very low level
Lowering blood pressure	54	14%	Very low level
Relieve pain	37	09%	Very low level
Curing infection	25	06%	Very low level
Increased distractibility	309	77%	High level
Memory loss	379	94%	Very high level
Aggressive behaviour	364	91%	Very high level
Severe dented problem	319	80%	High level
Mood disturbances	396	99%	Very high level

Rate: 0 – 39 = Very Low; 40 – 49 = Low; 50 – 80= High; 81 – 100 = Very High

In table 5, no total, this is because the respondents have a variety of options to choose from in the table and if their total is added, it will exceed the total number of respondents. From the table, the respondents have various reasons for choosing what level of knowledge acquired on the consequences of the drug abuse which they indicated hallucination, suicide, weight loss, memory loss, aggressive behavior and mood disturbances to a very high level with 96%, 82%, 98%, 94%, 91% and 99% respectively; deficit thinking, increased distractibility and severe dented problem were indicated to a high level with the 63%, 77% and 80% respectively; reduce stress and aid sleep were indicated to a low level which had 44% and 48%, while feel good, lowering blood pressure, relieve pain and curing infection were indicated to a very low level with 26%, 14%, 09% and 06% respectively.

Research Question 3: What is the attitude of Southeast public towards the public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs abuse?

Table 6: Mean and Standard Deviation displaying the Attitude of Southeast Public towards the Public Enlightenment on Methamphetamine Hydrochloride Drugs Abuse

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	StD	Remark
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27.	My attitude towards public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs is indifference	0 (0)	0 (0)	152 (304)	248 (248)	1.38	0.21	Rejected
28.	My attitude towards the public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs is participatory	156 (624)	190 (570)	54 (108)	0 (0)	3.26	0.68	Accepted
29.	My attitude towards public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs is supportive	148 (592)	192 (576)	52 (104)	8 (8)	3.20	0.73	Accepted
Grand Mean						3.28		Accepted

Data in table 6 showed that the residents attitude towards the public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride drug abuse were not indifference but participatory and supportive.

Discussion of findings

The data analysed in tables 1 to 6 provided the platform for this discussion which was purely done in relation to the research objectives and questions. Each of the tables handled and addressed a given research question.

Research question 1: What is the level of awareness among Southeast public in the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs?

The result revealed that majority of the respondents have heard, watched and read about the Methamphetamine hydrochloride drug; the strata of people associated with the abuse of the drug were more of youths; the reasons for the abuse of the drug were due to highness, increase of libido, peer influence and medication for depression and control of obesity, and the level of awareness among southeast public was very high. The finding is supported by the study of Cruickshank and Dyer (2012) when they typically referred methamphetamine as “ice” or “crystal meth.” Also, Lancaster et al. (2011) explained that the agenda-setting function of the mass media defines silent issues, captures the attention of the public and shapes public opinion. Adding to the above finding, Lawhon and Herrick (2013) posited that mass media play an influential role in the process of agenda-setting by providing one of the primary attention arenas in the public domain, by calling attention to certain problems and by framing what are seen as the causes of and solutions to those problems.

Research question 2: What is the extent of knowledge the Southeast public has acquired about the consequences of methamphetamine hydrochloride?

From the result of the study, it was revealed that the level of knowledge acquired on the consequences of the methamphetamine hydrochloride was to a very high level and the knowledge has helped the people against the consequences of the drugs abuse such as addiction, hallucination, suicide, weight loss, severe dented problems, mood disturbances, aggressive behavior, deficit thinking, increased distractibility and memory loss. This finding aligns with the opinion of Ihejirika (2011) when he posited that one of the elements that can help create conditions and accelerate development of these nations is the provision of information and knowledge which could be carried through campaigns. People need

information to make decisions and improve their situation. Also, the finding is in tandem with the finding of Adogu et al., (2015) that the knowledge of health problems associated with PM abuse was also high while the attitude of the respondents towards early detection of PM abuse among their patients/clients was discouraging.

Research question 3: What is the attitude of Southeast public towards the public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride drugs abuse?

The result revealed that the Southeast public attitude towards the public enlightenment on methamphetamine hydrochloride were participatory, supportive and not indifference. This finding aligned with McQuail (2015) that mass media functions are crucial and if effectively deployed, they can help the various anti-drug agencies in Nigeria to fight the problem of drug abuse and trafficking. While performing the surveillance functions, the mass media watch the environment and inform the people of events or issues that impact or affect the society. The mass media serve as the societal guards and watchdogs, which explore the environment to identify and alert the public to what is referred to as a SWOT analysis as they affect the masses. In the vein, the finding is supported by the opinion of Onukwufor (2012) that attitude is people reactions to persons, things, objects, questions and ideas that may have positive or negative undertone. In the same vein, he elaborated that attitude as a favourable or unfavourable evaluative reactions towards something or someone, exhibited in ones beliefs, feelings or intended behaviour. Also sees attitude as favourable and unfavourable disposition or inclination towards something or someone.

Conclusions

The study concluded that there is a significant level of awareness among southeast public on the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drug; that there is a significant kind of advocacy undertaken in Southeast against the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride drug; that there is a significant level of knowledge the Southeast public acquired on the consequences of the drug abuse; and that there is a significant attitude of Southeast public towards public enlightenment on the methamphetamine hydrochloride drug.

The study equally concluded that public enlightenment as passing information to the public in order to create awareness about health issues (methamphetamine hydrochloride drug) plays a significant role in the society. It can influence individual, government or community decisions that positively affect or impact on health. Thus, it aimed to primarily change knowledge, awareness and attitudes, contributing to the goal of changing behaviour.

The study finally established that methamphetamine hydrochloride (mkpuru mmiri) is a problem that is making genuine concern for both individuals and the government throughout the world. The issue is predominant among young people who most of the time are uninformed about the danger in drugs abuse. A large number of them occupied with drug abuse out of disappointment, destitution, absence of parental management, peer impact and pleasure. Nonetheless, with viable guiding system, the issues can be handled.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. That the Southeast public should put more efforts in sensitisation of methamphetamine hydrochloride drug since health awareness is a key to its effectiveness as a catalyst for change.
2. Southeast government should be able to develop assertive programmes that will enhance the youth ability to say no to drugs despite the pressure they face.
3. In Southeast, there is need to create an intense educative public enlightenment on health issues so it can be supportive and participatory.

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