

**DRUG ADDICTS PERCEPTIONS ON PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
INFORMATION: A QUALITATIVE CASE STUDY OF ADDICTS IN SABON GARI  
METROPOLITAN AREA OF KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA.**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The aim of this qualitative case study was to find out the types of psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to Drug Addicts from Sabon Gari metropolitan area of Kaduna State, Nigeria particularly in National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)'s detention and rehabilitation centre. In order to achieve this goal, the researchers adopted qualitative research methodology to answer the research questions through Snowball sampling technique and face – to – face semi structured in-depth interview with 10 ex-rehabilitated Drug addicts in the case study. Findings of this study revealed that health information, religious information, financial information, school information and societal information were the types of psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to Drug addicts by NDLEA. Another findings of this study shows that Drug addicts perceived the information communicated to them by NDLEA positively as expected by the agency this is because there are instances in the data collected from them that indicates their confessions about the usefulness of the information. Furthermore, some of the Drug addicts abuse were of the belief that the information was irrelevant to them because, there are instances in the data collected that indicates Drug addicts' complains about how NDLEA's officers treat them during their arrest and how they perceive NDLEA as corrupt agency which literally leads to negative perception about the information. The researchers proposed some recommendations for practical intervention.*

**KEYWORDS:** Psychoactive substance abuse, psychoactive substance abuse information, health related information, qualitative case study, snowball sampling technique, thematic analysis

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Psychoactive substance abuse is a major problem in the world that causes mental disorder, social violence, gang formation, cultism, armed robbery, 419 syndrome, Internet frauds, social miscreants (area boys and girls) lawlessness among youths, lack of respect for elders, rape, loss of senses, instant death and wasting of precious and innocent lives (Eric & Makanjuola, Abiodun & Sajo 2014). In order to support this argument, Abdullahi (2009) found that, apart from the genocide of Second World War, there is no other phenomenon that has more debilitating consequences on

mankind like the epidemic of psychoactive substance abuse. This view is anchored on the fact that even the much dreaded Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which has yet defied any known cure has psychoactive substance abuse as one of its principal causes.

Psychoactive substance abuse is describe as the use of illicit drugs and other chemicals which are none drug such as glue, cleaning fluids, petrol and other chemicals which cause psychological and physiological effects to an individual (Eric, 2014). It refers to chronic or habitual use of any chemical substance to alter the states of body or mind, other than medically warranted purposes leading to effects that are detrimental to the individual's physical /mental health or the welfare of others.

Consequences of psychoactive substance abuse include psychiatric disorder, vital organs damage, peptic ulcer, hypertension, blood cancer, social vices, civil upheavals, school dropout and poor academic performance (Makanjuola et.al, 2014). To address the problems of psychoactive substance abuse, international agencies such as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Health Organization (WHO) provides information about the dangers of abusing psychoactive substances globally, while National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) as a national agency responsible for eliminating the growing, processing, manufacturing, selling, exporting, trafficking and use of hard drugs in Nigeria, provides the information to the public in the country.

In order for NDLEA to communicate psychoactive substance abuse information effectively in Nigeria, the agency established a unique department named 'Anti-Drug Counseling Unit'. This department is in charge of communicating psychoactive substance abuse information inside and outside the agency's rehabilitation Centre. The strategies employed by this department to communicate the information outside the rehabilitation Centre comprises mass media campaign, social media campaign, distributions of leaflets at motor pack and other social gathering Centre's. While on the other hand, psychotherapist's counseling, family therapy and drug abuse education are the strategies employed by the department in order to communicate the information inside the agency's rehabilitation Centre.

Unfortunately, in spite of the many efforts made by NDLEA for communicating psychoactive substance abuse information. Psychoactive substance abuse particularly among youths has continued to be on the rise in Nigeria. This has become a very serious issue to the human capital development in Nigeria. As such, there is a critical need to have a study that will systematically uncover and document the perceptions of Drug addicts about the information communicated to them in order to bring out constructs that would help in designing information programs that would convince Drug Addicts to become free from Addiction behavior specifically Drug Addicts in Sabon Gari Metropolitan area of Kaduna State that were arrested, detained and continue abusing psychoactive substances after their release from NDLEA's detention and rehabilitation Centre.

### **Objectives of the study**

This study was set up to specifically to achieve the following objectives:

1. To find out the types of psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to Drug Addicts from Sabon Gari Metropolitan area of Kaduna State in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre.
2. To understand how Drug Addicts in Sabon Gari Metropolitan area of Kaduna State perceive the psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them by NDLEA.

## **METHOD**

Qualitative case study approach was used to design semi-structured interview for ten (10) participants. Qualitative case study allows for an in-depth examination of individuals' social phenomenon, or other observations within their real-life context for the purposes of investigation, theory development and testing (Creswell, 2002).

### *Procedure*

The procedure used for collecting relevant data in this study was guided based on snowball model of sampling techniques proposed by Kemmesies (1999). The model helps the researchers identified and locates ten (10) arrested, detained and released rehabilitated Drug Addicts from NDLEA rehabilitation Centre for face-to-face in-depth interview.

Firstly, the researcher contacted anonymous individual who was a Drug Addict but never being under the custody of NDLEA who helped in introducing the researcher to the targeted research participants.

Secondly, the researcher developed cordial relationship with the participants by being friendly and nice to them and also those who can answer the research questions were also identified at this level.

Thirdly, the researcher identified one particular Drug Addict among the group of Drug Addicts in their hideout jungle who was arrested, detained, rehabilitated and released from NDLEA rehabilitation and yet still abuse psychoactive substances. The researcher introduces the aim of the study to the participant which he felt convinced and accepts to participate in the study and also promised to help the researchers in identifying other potential targeted Drug Addicts that would be interviewed. Lastly, through this lead Drug Addict, the researchers were able to identify/reached other ten (10) willing Drug Addicts and interviewed them.

### *Analysis*

All data collected in this study was analyzed based on thematic analysis phases. Thematic analysis is a qualitative analytical method for identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns, themes, phrases and key words in minimally organized and describable data in rich and detail (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

**Phase 1:** The entire voice recorded interview was transcribed into written document while later, the researchers carefully read and re-read the data more than five times with the help of highlighter pen in order to search for themes or phrases which directly answered the research questions.

**Phase 2:** Open codes (themes or phrases which directly answered the research questions) were identified from the participants narratives.

**Phase3:** Open codes were condensed together and formed sub-categories.

**Phase 4:** Sub-categories based on a particular research question were grouped together (related sub-categories) and formed several themes.

### Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations in research refer to a designated policy protecting the reputation of participants under investigation. For the purpose of this study, the researchers explained the study purpose, objectives and the whole research process to the participants before obtaining their consent to participate. Moreover, the researchers assured the participants that should anyone of them wants to discontinue during the course of the research he/she will be free to do so. Confidentiality and anonymity was censured by protecting the privacy of the research participants for not exposing their names at any stage in this research.

### RESULTS

The data collected and analyzed in this study yielded five (5) overarching themes relating to the types of psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to Drug Addicts in NDLEA rehabilitation centre. While on the other hand, five (5) themes representing the voice of Drug addicts about their perception on the psychoactive substance abuse information were also discovered.

**Table 1: Types of Psychoactive Substance Abuse Information Communicated to Drug Addicts in NDLEA Rehabilitation Centre**

Investigation	Themes
What types of Psychoactive substance Abuse Information are Communicated to Drug Addicts in NDLEA Rehabilitation Centre?	Health information
	Religious information
	Financial information
	School information
	Societal information.

The above table represents the voice of arrested, detained rehabilitated and released Drug Addicts from Sabon Gari Metropolitan area about the type of psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre and the following themes emerged: (i)

Health information (ii) Religious information (iii) Financial information (iv) School information (v) Societal information.

### **Health Information**

Health Information theme was generated from the narratives of testified Drug Addicts regarding the type of information communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. Health information was all about informing Drug Addicts the health complications associated with substance abuse. Over (10/10) of Drug addicts reported Health information as one of the psychoactive substance abuse information to them. For example, in the words of one participant he testified that he was informed about the negative effect of substance abuse especially about his mental and physical abilities when he stated that:

*“I think the advice I received in NDLEA focused on the effects of drug abuse to my health, how it would lead to sickness and also I can even run mad if care is not taken.”*

Another participant with different point of view reported that he was informed about the dangers of substance abuse specifically its effects to sickle cell when he stated that:

*“Uhm, you see these people (NDLEA officers) were shouting at me that drugs are not good for my health more especially me that am a sickle cell, like say I care.”*

### **Religious Information**

Responses from the above theme indicated that apart from health related information associated to psychoactive substance abuse, religious information was also communicated them. Information about religious perspective on psychoactive substance abuse focused on religious beliefs about the effects of substance abuse. Over (4/10) of Drug addicts reported Health information as one of the psychoactive substance abuse information to them. For example one of the participants narrated how ashamed he became when one of the NDLEA officials reminded him about the bad image he painted his religion with, when he stated that:

*“well to be honest with you, I was so ashamed when one NDLEA officer quoted some verses from the holy Qur'an that talk about how Allah (God) use to be upset with anyone that change his normal behaviour deliberately under the influence of Alcohol its associates and also even obligatory prayers are not accepted if someone is on illicit drugs.”*

Closely related to the above statement, another participant also narrated how he was reminded about the challenges he may encounter in delivering the five obligatory prayers obligated to him by Allah when he stated that:

*“Ogah!among those NDLEA officials there was one Ustaz (man of God), me and him were very close and he told me that: “one of the negative side of drugs abuse is that I may not even deliver the five obligatory prayers at the right as a Muslim and if care is not taken I will end up being in hell fire in the day of judgment.”*

### **Financial Information**

Responses from the above theme indicated that among the substance abuse information Drug Addicts received in NDLEA rehabilitation was information about financial problems one may encounter as a result of Addiction to psychoactive substances. Over (3/10) of Drug addicts reported financial information as one of the psychoactive substance abuse information to them. For example one of the participants narrated how he was reminded about the amount of money he spent in substance abuse would have help him in invest in other commercial business when he stated that:

*“well, amm, I remember the conversation I had with that doctor in NDLEA where he was telling me if I will calculate the amount of money I spent in buying those drugs I would have even have a hug capital to invest myself into a good business. Which was actually true because, I can remember there was a time I was having more than N200,000 in my bank account but before I know it I spend over N170, 000 for buying Codeine and Rapenol tablet.”*

Contrary to the above statement another participant reported that individuals in his community refused to associate themselves with me neither do business with me when he stated that:

*“Ahh, the interaction I had with the health specialist in NDLEA and the educational movies I watched in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre I was able to come to the conclusion that drug abuse made someone to be irresponsible in the community that no single person would like to do business with him.”*

### **School Information**

This theme was generated from the narratives of the participant about the type of substance abuse information they received in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. Responses under this theme indicate that Drug Addicts were given advice about the dangers of psychoactive substance abuse to their learning abilities in their respective school. About (2/10) of Drug addicts reported school information as one of the psychoactive substance abuse information to them. For instance, one participant confessed that it was due to his addiction behavior that made him school dropout when he stated that:

*“Well, the information I got in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre about drug abuse was on how dangers of drug abuse distracted my commitments to attend school because as you looking at me now am I school dropout and am not happy about it.”*

Another participant confessed that even he does not have good relationship with the NDLEA officials he appreciated the advice he received from them when he stated that:

*“Well, even though I hate the way NDLEA treated me while I was under their custody but I have to confess that they told me the negative side of drug abuse which include school dropout”*

### **Societal Information**

The above theme emerged from the responses of Drug Addicts regarding the types of substance abuse information they received in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. About (2/10) of Drug addicts reported societal information as one of the psychoactive substance abuse information to them. Responses under this theme indicate that psychoactive substance abuse has negative consequences towards the development of a particular society. To support this argument one participant testified that it was confirmed to him by one NDLEA official that most of the crimes in any society were successfully achieved with the help of psychoactive substances when he stated that:

*“well, to be frank with you sir, that medical doctor confirmed to me that most of the crimes that are committed within our community was as a result of Drug abuse which I do believed him because I was once an inmate in Zaria prison for more than five times I was charged for arm robbery case and before we do the job at least we must smoke a lot of weed and Rapenol tablet in order to do the job perfectly.”*

Another participant confessed that based on the substance abuse information he received in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre he realized that Addiction to psychoactive substances has negative effect to society at large because it even ruined his relationship with the woman he intended to marry when he stated that:

*“Well, to be sincere with you I end up believing that it was even drug abuse that ruined my relationship with my fiancée before I was arrested and I knew it based on the interaction I had with NDLEA health professional.”*

**Table 2: Perception of Drug Addicts on psychoactive substance abuse information Communicated to them by NDLEA**

Investigation	Themes
How do Drug Addicts Perceive the psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them by NDLEA?	Positive/Negative perception on Health information
	Positive/Negative perception on Religious information
	Positive/Negative perception on Financial information
	Positive/Negative perception on School information
	Positive/Negative perception on Societal information

The above table represents the voice of arrested, detained, rehabilitated and released Drug Addicts from Sabon Gari Metropolitan area about how they perceive of the health, religious, financial, school and societal information communicated to them in NDLEA detention and rehabilitation Centre. The following themes emerged as described below:

**Perceptions on Health Information**

Based on the data collected with regards to how Drug perceived the health information communicated to them in NDLEA detention and rehabilitation Centre the following sub-themes emerged: (i) Positive perception to Health information (ii) Negative perception to Health information. The sub-themes were elaborated below:

***Positive perception to Health Information***

The above sub-theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts about how they perceived the information communicated to them on health related issues attached to substance abuse. About



(5/10) of Drug addicts perceived the health information to them by NDLEA positively. For example, one participant expressed that the information was useful to him when he stated that:

*“well, to be honest with you I found the information as useful to me because, it helped to know the dangers of abusing drugs more especially me that has eye problem, but seriously am very sorry to tell you that am still a drug Addict after my released but with the help of the information I was able to reduce the quantity of drugs I used before. You know is not easy for me to stop at once because I am a school dropout and also a jobless.”*

### ***Negative perception to Health information***

The above sub-theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts expressing how they perceived the health information communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre from their own perspective which contradict the expectations of the NDLEA officials. Over (4/10) of Drug addicts perceived the health information to them by NDLEA negatively. For example, one of the participants expressed that even though he is a sicklier patient, the information is irrelevant to him because he claimed that he cannot survive without smoking weed when he started that:

*“ogah like I told you before am a sicklier patient but the reality is I have a good feeling that I can't survive without smoking weed that's why I don't care about their useless advice or let me use your word information. The only thing that can make me stop smoking weed is except if they (NDLEA) have the replacement of weed for me.”*

### **Perceptions on Religious Information**

Based on the data collected with regards to how Drug Addicts perceived the religious information about substance abuse communicated to them in NDLEAD detention and rehabilitation Centre the following sub-theme emerged: (i) Positive perception to religious information (ii) Negative perception to religious information. The sub-theme was elaborated below:

***Positive perception to religious information***

The above sub-theme comprises narratives of Drug Addict son the belief that the religious perspective information on substance abuse communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre was very useful information to them. About (2/10) of Drug addicts perceived the religious information communicated to them by NDLEA positively. For example, one participant narrated how ashamed he was when he was reminded about how difficult it could be for him to perform the five obligatory prayers obligated to him as a Muslim when he stated that:

*“Ahh, like I told you the other time I felt so ashamed of myself when I was reminded how difficult it was for me to perform the five obligatory prayers as a Muslim. So if you ask of my opinion I must tell you that the information was relevant to me because since I was released from that house (NDLEA rehabilitation Centre) I don't normally get high unless it was around that kind 10:00 – 12:00 am. Uhm if not because of the influence of these bad friends that I have I was even planning to stop entirely.”*

Contrary the above confession another participant reported how scared he became when he heard about the punishment Allah reserved for Drug addicts when he stated that:

*“I love the information because anything that Allah said in the holy Quran about the punishment He reserved for drug addicts really scared me”*

***Negative perception to religious information***

The above sub-theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts in Sabon Gari Metropolitan area of Kaduna State about how they negatively perceived the psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them by NDLEA. About (2/10) of Drug addicts perceived the religious information communicated to them by NDLEA negatively. For example one of the participants accused some of the religious leaders in his community as Drug addicts like him which literally influence his decision making about the information when he stated:

*“Uhm, my brother (the interviewer) I am a Muslim and I know that drug abuse is prohibited in my religion but I can assured that there are thousands of imams and their children that smoke and drinks like us. Why does NDLEA officers do not arrest them? And arrest me instead? Ehmm! So forget that information even them (NDLEA officers) are not pure. Ahh, but*

*seriously does people had no idea  
what was on my mind because I  
pretended to be innocent when I was  
under their custody”*

Closely related to this, another Christian participant has similar perception when he stated that:

*“Ahh, ogah researcher you see I am a Christian  
I go church every Sunday but, what surprised  
me was that I saw my pastor in one joint  
drinking Alcohol and smoking cigarette and  
when I asked him about the unreasonable  
behaviour, do you know what he told me?  
He said he wants to effects so that it can  
be a topic of discussion in our upcoming  
Sunday service (hahahaha) so instead  
of NDLEA to go and arrest those kinds of  
pastor that spoil the teachings of Jesus  
Christ they were wasting their time with me. ”*

### **Perception on Financial Information**

Based on the data collected with regards to how Drug Addicts perceived the financial consequences of substance abuse information communicated to them in NDLEA detention and rehabilitation Centre, the following sub-themes emerged: (i) Positive perception to Financial Information and (ii) Negative perception to Financial Information. These sub-themes were elaborated below:

#### ***Positive perception to Financial Information***

The above sub-theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts regarding how they perceived information about financial consequences of substance abuse communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. About 20% of Drug addicts perceived the financial information communicated to them by NDLEA positively (See appendix 2). For example one of the participants appreciated the importance of the information because he realized the negative consequences of substance abuse to his business activities when he stated that:

*“well, to be frank with you sir, to me the content  
of the information is good and there is element of  
truth about it because before I was rehabilitated I  
use to get high in the morning, afternoon, evening  
and night but based on the information (information  
about financial consequences of substance abuse)  
I received I now only got drunk in late nights because  
I have saloon and I am good at my job but due to my*

*Addiction behaviour I lost most of my customers, so to me the information is good.”*

### ***Negative perception to Financial Information***

The above sub-theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts with regards to how they negatively perceived the financial information communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. Only (1/10) of Drug addicts perceived the financial information communicated to them by NDLEA negatively. For example, one of the participants expressed how his experience during his arrest by NDLEA officers reshaped his perception about the information when he stated that:

*“Kai! Ogah, no mind those people (NDLEA officers) what is their business with me ? it was my money I used to buy my drugs. Uhm, you know they are wicked people. Because I can still remember how embarrassed me publicly during my arrest. So burn that their information my guy (the interviewer) . Uhm, but you know when I was under their custody I had to pretend and show them that I accept whatever they told me but lie-lie I no gree”*

### **Perceptions on Societal Information**

Based on the data collected with regards to how Drug Addicts perceived the Societal Information communicated to them in NDLEA detention and rehabilitation Centre about the following sub-theme emerged: (i) Positive perception to Societal Information. The sub-theme was elaborated below:

### ***Positive perception to Societal Information***

The above theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts expressing how they perceived the substance abuse information communicated to them in NDLEAD detention and rehabilitation Centre about the dangers of substance abuse to society. The theme also includes narrative of Addict’s perceptions about the usefulness of the information. Only (1/1) of Drug addicts perceived the societal information communicated to them by NDLEA positively. For example one of the participants expressed how he values the information when he stated that:

*“Ahh you see my master (the interviewer) when those people were telling me that most of the crimes that are committed in our society were as a result of drug abuse in my mind I said it was true because I was once arrested for arm robbery”.*

### ***Negative perception to Societal Information***

The above theme comprises narrations of Drug Addicts about being joblessness and school dropout as one of their reasons for negatively perceiving the psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre as irrelevant. Only (1/1) of Drug addicts perceived the societal information communicated to them by NDLEA negatively. For example one participant expressed that he also abused drugs even after his released because he was jobless and school dropout when he stated that:

*“well, even though I knew drug abuse is not good for my health I still do it because am a jobless and at the same time school dropout, so getting high is the only thing that kept me alive but I promise myself that whenever I secured a job I will stop completely moreover, no one shows his or her concern about me in our society, so why should I care about what in it. But you know I have to show NDLEA innocent face and deceive them just to have my way out”*

### **Perception on School Information**

The above theme comprises narratives of Drug Addicts with regards to how they perceived the School information communicated to them in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. The theme also comprises confessions of Drug Addicts about their behaviors after they received the information. About (2/10) of Drug addicts perceived the school information communicated to them by NDLEA positively. For example, one of the participants expressed how he valued the information when he stated that:

*“Yah, as far as am concern the information is good and also it serves as awareness to me because like I told you the other time we meet, I am a school dropout and since from the day I was released, am planning to go back to school so to me the information makes sense.”*

Another participant claimed that even though he and the NDLEA officials were not on a good shape, he valued the information when he stated that:

*“well even though I hate those people (NDLEA) because of the beatings and embarrassment I got from them, I still respect the advice they gave me on the issue of drug abuse more especially me that I am a student and I was able to realized that drug abuse leads failing of exams and finally if care is not*

*taken I might even be expelled from the school. So in my own opinion the information is good because illiteracy is not good at all.”*

## **DISCUSSION**

The findings of this research work are discussed as follows:

### **Types of Substance Abuse Information Communicated to Drug Addicts in NDLEA Rehabilitation Centre and How Do They Perceive the Information**

Findings from this study indicated that the types of psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to Drug Addicts in NDLEA detention and rehabilitation Centre are: Health information, Religious information, financial information, School information, societal information.

Health information is one of the excellent information NDLEA officials provided to Drug addicts in the agency's rehabilitation Centre. Health information is excellent because it helps in creating awareness and fear to Drug addicts about the dangers and the consequences of consuming psychoactive substances with regards to their health. The aim of this information is in line with the concept of fear appeal. Fear appeal is described as persuasive message that attempt to arouse fear by emphasizing the potential danger and harm that will befall individuals if they do not adopt the message's recommendations (Jones & Owen, 2006).

Religious information was excellent information communicated to Drug addicts in NDLEA habitation center. Religious information is good information because it comprises advices concerning the side effects of psychoactive substance abuse to religious image and worship activities. Similarly, Fareo (2012) reported that religious leaders are usually invited time – time in Prison and rehabilitation Centre to preach as support groups in order to persuade Drugs addicts and convicts about their undesirable behaviors from religious points of view. During this discussion majority of Drug and convicts were convinced that they are not true representatives of their faith.

One of the vital information communicated by NDLEA to Drug addicts was financial information. Financial information is a type of information that informs Drugs addicts about the consequence of psychoactive substance abuse towards their economic productivity and development in their community at large. In line with this, Fareo (2012) reported that Drug abuse has negative impact on business productivity and competitiveness as it also increase workplace injuries and absenteeism.

Societal information was one of the most important information communicated to Drug addicts in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre. Societal information consists of advices and counseling packages concerning the negative consequences of psychoactive substance abuse in a particular community or society. In line with this, scholars such as Eric & Mankanjuola (2014) claimed that Psychoactive substance abuse is one of the major problems in our society that causes social violence, gang

formation, cultism, armed robbery, 419 syndrome, Internet frauds, social miscreants (area boys and girls) lawlessness among youths, lack of respect for elders, rape, instant death and wasting of precious and innocent lives.

### **Perception of Drug Addicts about psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them by NDLEA**

The findings of this study revealed that Drug Addicts perceived the health information positively and accept it with good faith while on the other hand some of them perceived the information negatively due to the fact that their level of addiction and the pleasure they derive from it will not allow them to accept and use the information as expected by NDLEA.

Contrary to the above findings, the researcher also found out that Drug Addicts perceived the religious information communicated to them as useful information precisely how the information convinced them about the status of Drug addicts in religious domain which influence how they accept the information positively. While on the other hand, some of them perceived the information negatively based on the accusations they have on some of the religious leaders in their community as Drug addicts like them.

Furthermore, findings of this study revealed that Drug Addicts perceived the financial information positively and accept it with good faith because it helps them realize its negative consequences to their financial and economical business. While some of Drug addicts perceived the information negatively due to the fact that they experienced public embarrassment during their arrest as prime suspects for Drug abuse.

On the same vein, findings of this study revealed that Drug Addicts perceived the school information positively because they believe psychoactive substance abuse leads to failing of exams and if care is not taken it could also lead to school dropout.

Finally, findings of this study revealed that Drug Addicts perceived the societal information communicated to them positively because they believed most of the crimes committed in their community were successfully achieved as a result of high rate of psychoactive substance abuse. While some of them perceived the information negatively due to the fact that when they were under the custody of NDLEA no one in their community shows his/her concern about their wellbeing.

Positive perceptions on health information, religious information, financial information, school information and societal information are the aims and objectives of communicating psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to Drug addicts by NDLEA. This is in line with the proposition made by Fareo, (2012) about his claim that the aim of providing rehabilitation services to arrested, detained Drug addicts in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre was to inform, advise, assist, help and counsel them about the dangers of drinking; inhaling; swallowing; smoking, any tangible physical material that has the ability of distorting their psychological and emotional feelings from their normal behavior.

While on the other hand, some of the Drug addicts after released from NDLEA rehabilitation Centre displayed an unexpected behavior which was negative perception on health information, religious information, financial information, school information and societal information. These negative perceptions were as a result of mistrust between Drug addicts and some of the NDLEA officers regarding the attitudes and undesirable behaviors displayed on the process of arresting Drug addicts and the attitudes displayed while disseminating rehabilitation services to them. This is correspondent with the claim of Burnett et al.,( 2001) that small world (e.g. Drug addicts) would not readily accept or believe any information coming from a social type whose behaviors and interactions are deemed undesirable or whose behaviors are in conflict with their norms and worldview

## **CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings the researchers confirmed that several types of psychoactive substance abuse information have been communicated to Drug addicts in NDLEA's detention and rehabilitation Centre. More so, Drug addicts' perceptions with regards psychoactive substance abuse information have also been identified. Therefore, the following recommendations can be offered for practical consideration.

1. There is a need for NDLEA officials to design another alternative informational package that would convince Drug Addicts to accept the information communicated to them by NDLEA. Therefore, the researcher recommends that information about personality status of Drug Addicts' political future career should be added as another alternative informational package to be communicated to Drug Addicts in NDLEA rehabilitation Centre.
2. The researcher recommends that Nigerian government should create more job opportunities especially to youths in the country. Moreover, the management of NDLEA should frequently and regularly train their staff on how to develop good relationship with the arrested and detained Drug Addicts under their custody. More importantly, community leaders in Sabon Gari Metropolitan area of Kaduna State should be frequently visiting Drug addicts that are under the custody of NDLEA in order to share their love to them. If this goal achieved it could serve as an avenue for changing the negative perceptions of Drug addicts about the psychoactive substance abuse information communicated to them by NDLEA.

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The authors of this study declare that there are no competing or potential conflicts of interest with regards to this study.



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