



## **The Implications of Poverty and Drug Trafficking for Nigeria's Development.**

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### **Abstract**

Nigeria has been plagued with an enormous level of poverty and drug trafficking. In the light of this, the paper conceptualized poverty as well as drug trafficking, stating the theories of poverty. In addition to that, the historical background of drug trafficking in Nigeria was analyzed as well as the implications on Nigeria's global image and overall development. Qualitative technique was adopted and the findings from this paper revealed that distortions in the employment market which introduces all forms of discrimination and rigidities and prevent the advancement of people along the social and economic ladder of progress induced the propensity for Nigerians to venture into drug peddling when other means of escaping the poverty trap fails. In addition to that, it has unfortunately caused Nigerians to be subjected to humiliating and dehumanizing searches at most international airports across the world with the stereotype that every Nigerian is presumed to be a drug peddler. It therefore recommends and concludes that there is need for the government in collaboration with the mass media, community leaders, religious leaders and, NGOs in creating public enlightenment and sensitization about the dangers of drug trafficking for the individual, community and society at large.

**Keywords:** Drug barons, Drug courier, Drug trafficking, NDLEA, Poverty

### **Introduction**

The severity and magnitude of poverty in Nigeria has become a dangerous signal of adverse effect that has resulted in the emergence of criminally organized gangs of drug traffickers in Nigeria (Olojede,2019). Apparently, one of the major issues dampening Nigeria's image abroad aside poverty is it's citizen's involvement in drug laundering Unfortunately, this unwholesome situation has become a daily reported occurrence in the media with a barrage of news of young Nigerians who are arrested while attempting to traffic narcotics such as Diazepam, codeine, exol, tramadol, morphine, sativa (indian hemp),crystal methamphetamine, cannabis, hallucinogens, marijuana, rohypnol, amphetamines cocaine and heroin within and outside the country (Nwannennaya and Abiodun,2017;Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme,2017). According to Nnabuko, Nwaizugbo and Odigbo (2013) Nigerians are heavily involved in drug trafficking, shipping heroine from Asian countries to Europe and America and cocaine from South America to Europe and South Africa. The large numbers of ethnic Nigerians in India, Pakistan and Thailand give their gangs ready access to around 90% of the World's heroine.

In the United States, Nigerian drug traffickers are important distributors of heroine, from importing it into the country to distribution level and selling it to lower-lever street gangs. More





devastating is the fact that aside Nigeria being the poverty capital of the world (Kazeem,2018), Nigeria is also said to be the hub of African narcotics trafficking. Nigerians transport a large portion of heroine abused in the United States, they smuggle South American cocaine to Europe and Africa, especially South Africa, and they export marijuana-the only narcotic cultivated in Nigeria to Europe and other West African countries (Nnabuko, Nwaizugbo and Odigbo ,2013). Sadly, the image of a nation to a large extent determines the destiny or destruction of the nation. Nigeria's battered image in the global scene has become an insignia of poverty, disrespect for the rule of law, drug trafficking among other life threatening crimes which has brought about dishonor and humiliation among Nigerians living abroad. Consequently, this plague of drug trafficking has put a stigma on the credibility and the integrity of Nigerians in the international community which has further been compounded by the notoriety of poverty and corruption that has further put Nigeria's international image in jeopardy.

## Conceptual Clarifications

### Poverty

Poverty and drug trafficking is a world phenomenon which affects nations differently at various depths, levels and at different phases of existence. There is no nation that is totally immune from poverty or crime. However, it is more disturbing in third world countries (Sambo &Bawa, 2017; Anumudu, Umar & Madu, 2013). Nemezu (2014) asserted that poverty is a condition in which people live below a specified minimum income level and are unable to provide the basic necessities of life needed for an acceptable standard of living. This ugly situation tends to propel victims of poverty into crime. Nobert (2003) however observed that standard of living in itself is determined by several factors of which income is chief.

This presupposes that defining poverty in terms of standard of living is invariably defining it in terms of income. Adebayo (2013) on the other hand emphasized that poverty is a situation of not having enough to eat, poor drinking water, poor sanitation, unfit shelter ,high mortality rate, low life expectancy, poor environmental conditions, low level energy consumption, low educational opportunities, poor health status due to inadequate health care, lack of productive assets , general lack of economic infrastructure and lack of active participation in the decision making process either as it affects individuals or national arena (be it management or political).

The above reveals that poverty is the exposure and vulnerability to crime, risks, corruption, street-life, squalor, short life expectancy and human degradation. In this sense, poverty may be understood as the deprivation of essential goods and services that pushes its victims into crime. This suggests that poverty is a situation of lack or inadequate food to eat, poor drinking water, poor hygiene, unhealthy living environment, high mortality rate, low life expectancy, poor environmental conditions, low level energy consumption, low educational opportunities, poor health status due to inadequate health care, lack of productive assets , general lack of economic infrastructure and lack of active participation in the decision making process either as it affects individuals or national arena (be it management or political).Hence,the culmination of these factors pushes individuals into criminal behaviours.





In this sense, poverty may be understood as the deprivation of essential goods and services. Consequently, poverty can be seen as a situation of social exclusion, dependency and the inability to participate in society particularly in education and information. However, this paper adopts without differing from all of the above definitions of poverty, the World Bank's definition which sees poverty as the exposure and vulnerability to risks, corruption, street-life, squalor, high infant mortality, acute malnutrition, short life expectancy and human degradation. In this sense, poverty may be understood as the deprivation of one from essential goods and services.

### **Drug Trafficking**

Drug trafficking is an intentional offence involving the production, cultivation, import, smuggling and promotion of illegal substances. This extends to crimes related to the tools and means of transportation used in the commission of these offences and the diversion of precursors and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as crimes relating to proceeds used in or resulting from illicit drug trafficking (Janaki, 2016). Drug trafficking is an organized crime which presupposes the involvement of a producer, a trafficker, a street dealer and a buyer. Drug trafficking is an organization which implies the existence of a clear leadership, a hierarchy, a division of labor and continuity overtime. However, the drug criminals who work together in relatively small or medium sized groups collaborate on an informal or temporary basis (Kumar, 2012). This was nonetheless reiterated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2020) who viewed drug trafficking as the illicit global trade that deals with the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws (Nnabuko, Nwaizugbo and Odigbo, 2013). This indicates that drug trafficking is a structured system which consists of systematic parts with each part having various functionalities and needs.

For Kumar (2012) drug trafficking are activities which include standing watch to warn dealers of the police holding drugs or money, guarding the supply of drugs or conducting sale transactions in which drugs are exchanged for money. This suggests that drug trafficking is basically the illicit sale of drugs or laundering of drugs either for pecuniary gains or to feed a self-destructive habit or pattern. This involves close monitoring of various channels which the drug passes through before it gets to the consumer. More often than not however, Kumar (2012) noted that illicit drug trade is usually done by syndicates transnationally for a short term economic gain at the expense of long term consequences.

It consists of a smuggling network for the sole aim of generating immediate financial profit. This therefore reveals that a body of interconnected and affiliate drug criminals collaborate with perfect understanding of their roles in trafficking illegal substances for immediate parochial gains and/or to feed their ego for power and elusiveness. However, in the context of this paper, drug trafficking is a well-structured crime involving the production, manufacture, extraction, preparation, offering for sale, distribution, sale delivery (on any terms whatsoever), brokerage, dispatch, dispatch in transit, transport, importation or exportation of any narcotic or psychotropic drugs. This suggests that drug trafficking requires the provision of narcotics which is managed by a large-scale criminal organization with division of labor amongst its members for profit, parochial gains or power over an ongoing period of time.





## Theoretical Framework

This paper is anchored on the social exclusion theory pioneered by Sophie Bessis in 1995. The theory states that social exclusion is used to describe social disadvantage and argues that social exclusion is the specific or deliberate continuous effort in which persons or groups are methodologically blocked from or denied complete accessibility to various rights, opportunities and resources that are usually available to members of a different group and which are indispensable to social integration within that particular group e.g. shelter, employment, medical care, civic engagement and democratic participation (Bessis,1995).

Alienation or disenfranchisement emanating from social exclusion can be as a result of an individual's social class, race, skin color or educational level. Basically, whoever appears to derail in any way from perceived norms of a particular group can become socially excluded. It is an intentional process by which individuals or groups are wholly or partially kept out of participating in the society they live in (Atumah,2019). It is fundamentally an intentional disqualification as a result of lack in empowerment or educational opportunities. This can be caused by a person or group's social class or educational level.

According to Ighodalo and Igbokwe-Ibeto (2012) this certain people include mentally and physically challenged individuals, the elderly, abused children, junkies, deviants, single parents and social misfits. Basically, these group of excluded people are usually kept out or disempowered from achieving secure livelihood, permanent employment, properties, credit or loans, lands, housing, minimal prevailing consumption level, education, skill acquisition, justice, active involvement in the democratic process, humane treatment, respect and personal fulfillment provided by the state.

However, the outcome of social exclusion is that affected individuals or communities that are prevented from participating fully in the economic, social and political life of the society in which they live emerge to become criminal elements in order to survive. This implies that the socially excluded individuals or communities that are prevented from having a stake in the socio-economic life of the society venture into crime or criminal activities. Nnam and Agboti (2018) observed that any society where majority of the youths are socially excluded is bound to lead to a society with a sharp increase in crime, delinquency and social vices.

Because of this exclusion on basis of not belonging to a particular social class by virtue of lack in education, empowerment or not being from a particular race, these disparities create a platform where the conscience of the people becomes deadened and such a society will unknowingly create its own brand of criminals or drug traffickers. It can therefore be deduced that the act of exclusion pushes victims into crimes such as indulgence in hard drugs including trafficking in it. This makes the theory quite apt for this paper.

## Origin of Drug Trafficking in Nigeria

The use of cannabis predated formal independence from the British in 1960. The drug was introduced into Nigeria in the aftermath of the second world war by military officers returning from the Middle East, the far East and North Africa. Nonetheless, by the 1980s, Nigeria witnessed the entry of cocaine and heroin into the Nigerian drug market. The drugs came





into Nigeria as a result of the involvement of Nigerians in international drug trafficking (Nwannennaya and Abiodun, 2017). Heroin entered the country when Nigerian Naval officers undergoing training in India smuggled it into the country on their return. Cocaine came into Nigeria through South American drug traffickers who used West African countries including Nigeria and Ghana as a passage into the European and North American drug markets (Ubong, Obot and Umoh, 2017).

This was further expatiated by Nwannennaya and Abiodun (2017) who noted that drug trafficking can be traced to the period just after the second world war. Nigerian soldiers who had served in Burma, India, came back with seeds of the cannabis sativa plant. They went ahead to experiment with its cultivation and discovered that the plant does very well in some parts of Nigeria and this led to a rise in the cultivation of the plant. It was just a matter of time before the potentials of a high population, improving economy and growing air transportation system would position Nigeria as a potential market where drug trafficking can grow as well as its production. In subsequent years, Nigeria became a transit/trafficking point for category "A" drugs such as cocaine, heroin and other illicit substances intended for Europe, South East Asia and North American markets.

The Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency reported that large amounts of cocaine smuggled from South America into Europe and North America passes through Nigeria. Nonetheless, the most widely abused and locally trafficked drug in Nigeria and West Africa is cannabis in its herbal form because it is quite affordable and readily available due to the fact that it is cultivated and produced locally. Illicit drugs are usually smuggled across the nation's land, air and sea ports. Those smuggled by air are usually wrapped in a protective film and swallowed to be excreted at the destination of the trafficker or are tucked away in the smugglers luggage. Until the advent of the NDLEA however, the Board of Customs and Excise (now Nigeria Custom Service) and the Nigeria Police were the major drug interdiction organ of government while the Federal Welfare Department was charged with the counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons (Nwannennaya and Abiodun, 2017).

### **Nature of Drug Trafficking in Nigeria**

Ellis (2009) noted that a senior anti-drug official, Robert S. Gelbard described Nigerian drug networks as some of the most sophisticated, money-moving and document forging organization in the world. He highlighted that they are sought out by Asian and Latin American drug producers on account of their shrewdness. The Nigeria drug trade is characterized by a unique business structure that has developed over decades and which gives depth to the emerging cooperation with traders from other countries and continents. The following therefore briefly describes the nature of the Nigerian drug trade. A Nigerian drug baron requires at least three assets. First, he/she must be able to purchase drugs cheaply at source. For instance, a drug baron who has the financial wherewithal can buy a large quantity of cocaine cheaply at source and sell to syndicate of smaller operators at a more expensive price, thereby pooling their resources for a major purchase.

A second requirement for the drug baron is a good contact in the receiving country, generally North America in the case of heroin, or Europe in the case of cocaine. North America and Europe have substantial Nigerian communities, some of the millions of Nigerians who live





outside their own country. Even if this people live decent lives, earning their keep in respectable occupations, the existence of this phenomenon in diaspora nevertheless constitutes a medium in which traffickers can move. Hence, many Nigerian drug barons keep a very low profile in order not to attract attention (Stephen, 2009).

The third requirement for a drug baron is a substantial amount of capital to finance operations. This often poses no challenge to anyone who has already made successful transactions. For instance, a drug baron works with a second layer of operators known as “strikers”. This is a street term amongst the underworld of drug traffickers in Nigeria to mean a person who can strike a deal, quite likely a former drug courier who has entered the business at the lowest level and worked his way up, acquiring an excellent network of contacts. A striker is usually a person with a high degree of logistical expertise in a wide range of criminal enterprise. A striker knows exactly the best person to approach for falsified documents or who is an expert parker of drugs. He receives a fee for performing this type of service for the drug baron and will typically work with several drug barons while remaining self-employed.

One of the striker’s fundamental task is the recruitment of couriers and one of the features of the Nigerian system that makes effective police detection so difficult is the use of independent specialists that provides a vital cut-out between the top level of operation and the lower drug courier. A drug courier is usually oblivious of the name or even the very existence of the drug baron who is the real initiator of a drug transaction, if a drug courier is arrested, he therefore cannot be prevailed upon to give vital information to police officers. For this very reason, strikers often try to recruit a stranger as a drug courier. Although, friends and family may also be approached.

A Nigerian striker based in South Africa for example, may recruit South African nationals or better still South Africans with British passports. Gambia is a relevant transit point because of the existence of substantial tourist trade, which makes it easy for a courier to travel with a planeload of tourists or to recruit a holiday maker and persuade or deceive them into acting as a drug courier. The favorite recruiters for strikers based in Nigeria are fellow Nigerians who have resident permits for European or North American countries or Nigerians who possess foreign passports. Having recruited a drug courier, a striker will stay with a person until the point of departure, a period of a couple of days or week to ensure they do not lose their nerve. In some cases, drug couriers are escorted to religious oracles during this period to swear an oath of loyalty (Stephen, 2009).

However, the lowest level of transportation is the drug courier or mules and this are done by those in dire need of money. Couriers recruited by Nigerian drug barons through a striker, usually carry a small parcel of drugs on their person, in return for cash payment. There are also freelancers, individuals who try their luck at buying and smuggling drugs independently. The 21-year-old Iwuchukwu Amara Tochi who was hanged in Singapore on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2006 after being caught in possession of 727 grams of heroin was one of such unfortunate victims of drug trafficking. He was eighteen at the time of his arrest. He had gone to Asia in the hope of pursuing a career as a professional footballer but had been recruited as a drug courier by a fellow Nigerian for a fee of \$2,000 (Ellis, 2009). Of 316 individuals arrested at Lagos International airport in possession of cocaine or heroin between January, 2006- and 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, no





less than 69% were people who had ingested condoms filled with hard drugs. Only 31% had packed them in baggage. Of the 55 people arrested at the same airport for similar reasons, in the third quarter of 2007, most were in their thirties. According to a police analyst, this is a vulnerable age because it corresponds with people losing the support of their parents and having to make major life choices which therefore indicates that poverty or escaping the poverty trap is the major motivating factor of drug trafficking in Nigeria (Ellis, 2009).

### **Causes of Drug Trafficking in Nigeria**

There are several stages adduced as some of the causes of drug trafficking in Nigeria. The first one is the stage of economic and social development. This stage reveals that a situation of economic underdevelopment can be a hindrance to the capacity of a nation to formulate and implement programs and projects that will enhance employment opportunities and reduces crime. In a situation like this, chronic poverty that induces crime will arise. This is made worse when there is population explosion and lack of proper planning. A situation where there is population explosion and it is not matched by economic growth and development can be a breeding ground for poverty and drug trafficking

Secondly, there is the factor of low productivity. This may be due to obsolescence of human skill or low acquired skill resulting from low education, poor health and physical incapacity. It could also be a result of inadequate access to productive assets and consequently unemployment or underemployment. This results in the increased propensity for youths to venture into drug trafficking as a last resort when other means of escaping the poverty trap has failed. Therefore, since the consuming unit is unable to earn enough income to maintain adequate/decent living standard, Nigeria's human/physical skills have tended to deteriorate and resort to drug trafficking with the passage of time as a result of a combination of brain-drain and failing educational facilities as well as funding.

Lastly, market imperfections create distortions in the employment market which introduces all forms of discrimination and rigidities and prevent the advancement of people along the social and economic ladder of progress, in the form of gender, age, race and tribe constitute market imperfections. Also, the existence of an income distribution structure which is skewed in favor of some classes in the society is a form of market imperfection that renders the less favored class poor which ultimately induces the youths to engage in drug trafficking as a means of having a decent standard of living (Olojede, 2019; Nwannennaya and Abiodun, 2017; Ojo, 2012).

### **Implications of Poverty and Drug Trafficking in Nigeria**

The first implication is what can be termed as personal implication. Here, poverty impinges on the ability of individual members of the society to attain self-actualization. Most people seek education, wealth, influence as a means of attaining this virtue, but since they need resources to pursue these goals, poverty poses a big barrier to their actualization. The individual may end up feeling deprived, frustrated, withdrawn, vulnerable, depressed and a total lack of personal worth which may result into some form of socio-psychological problems and disorientation expressed in drug trafficking and other socially unacceptable behaviors





The above is followed by social implication in which drug peddlers constitute a lot of social nuisance to the society. Anarchy, insurgencies, terrorism, domestic violence, road rage, gang rape, kidnap and other violent criminal tendencies has often been a result of high level of access to hard drugs. For instance, rival gangs fight and kill to maintain their control over drug distribution. In fact, law enforcement agents in many cities consider drugs to be a factor in majority of murders they investigate. Furthermore, where members of the society find it difficult to meet their basic survival need, in the attempt to survive, some resort to drug trafficking. Also, hard drugs have been associated with increase in the level of prostitution because drug users often resort to sex trading to finance or feed their habits. Famine, wars, outbreak of diseases and epidemics, high infant mortality, low life expectancy and such other social disorder characterize nations bedeviled with drug trafficking problems.

Another implication of drug trafficking is that of physical health where babies inside their mother's womb are not spared the evil consequences of drugs. Some of them suffer painfully from drug withdrawals while others die from it. However, painful withdrawal symptoms are not the only problem they face for drug exposure in the womb. Narcotic consumption for pregnant women may cause newly born babies to suffer mental and physical damage as well as negatively affecting infant-mother bond. Aside that, The United Nations report revealed that 22% of the world's HIV/AIDS population are drug users who inject themselves with infected needles.

International Implications: Possible sanctions by the United Nations, whom one of its agencies, the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is at the fore front of the war for the eradication of narcotic drugs in the world and the unseriousness of the Nigerian government in checking drug trafficking may propel loss of vital foreign investment by world leading economies, whose citizens and government actually have the funds for investment. In addition, there might be possible denial of aids, grants and other financial assistance both from the United Nation's agencies and foreign international organizations, most of which are from the leading European and North-American countries, that suffer the consequences of drug trade from Nigeria.

There is also the issue of the destruction of Nigeria's image globally with far reaching implications for Nigeria. This suggests that Nigeria faces the risk of being treated as a pariah nation because aside for its notoriety for fraud and large-scale corruption, drug trafficking, seems to be one of the challenges associated with Nigeria which is unfortunately bringing Nigeria's image to massive disrepute. The sad consequence of this is that it has caused the international community to treat Nigerians as crooks and subject them to humiliating and dehumanizing searches without any atom of respect and dignity at most international airports across the world under the assumption that every Nigerian is presumed to be a drug baron or trafficker. Similarly, this menace has also caused the continued mistreatment and maltreatment of decent and innocent Nigerians living outside Nigeria because of the stereotype and prejudice about Nigerians for having a penchant for crime even when numerous opportunities for jobs are readily available.

Lastly, the sabotage of the Nigerian government's efforts in rebranding Nigeria's international image by some unscrupulous elements has made a joke out of Nigeria. This implies that the continued daily execution of Nigerian youths guilty of involvement in illicit narcotic trades in some strict Asian and Muslim countries of the world has made an international slur and







joke of the rebranding project of Nigeria and other diplomatic/international relations efforts in the country which has further contributed to an erosion of Nigeria's corporate image and has also resulted in brain drain. More worrisome is the fact that even when some Nigerians have been prosecuted and convicted for drug related offences in foreign lands, after serving jail terms or while on bail, they often go back to their vomit (Nnabuko, Nwaizugbo and Odigbo, 2013; Yunus, 2016; Chikeleze, 2005).

### Conclusion

Poverty and drug trafficking have not just created physical and mental health problems but has also triggered an increase in crime and other social vices. Some of which include kidnapping, militancy, terrorism, insurgency, political thuggery, domestic violence, vandalism, road rage and rape. All these create an unsafe and unstable environment which constitutes a great threat to the peace, stability and development of the nation. Therefore, it is of necessity that for poverty and drug peddling to be addressed in all sincerity, the government, policy makers, the social and mass media, community leaders, religious leaders, academic leaders, NGOs and leaders at all levels create an enabling environment where virtues like decency, ethical commitment, contentment, hard work and integrity thrives. Abhorrent values such as corruption in high and low places, decadence, avarice, lawlessness, impunity, covetousness, desperation for quick wealth, indolence, inordinate ambition, stealing, violence and fraudulent activities should have no place to develop.

### Recommendations

The social and mass media need to stop encouraging avarice through unnecessary celebration and glorification of questionable wealth and affluence from scoundrels, smugglers and miscreants. The beauty and reward of ethics, integrity, dedication hard work, sincerity, commitment and discipline must be emphasized through movies, music, radio, newspapers and other media outlets.

Secondly, the Nigerian Film and Video Censors board must live up to expectation in its discharge of duties by prohibiting any movie or music video glamourizing or subtly encouraging the use or trafficking of illicit drugs from airing or portraying crime as the only avenue for financial accomplishments and success.

Thirdly, parents, mentors and leaders need to stop pressurizing, harassing, emotionally blackmailing, guilt tripping, gas lighting or emotionally manipulating their wards or mentee to make money through any means. Similarly, the desperation for quick wealth through illegal means must not be allowed to foster or thrive by parents or leaders at any level.

In the same vein, government at the federal, state and local levels must of immediate necessity create an enabling environment where jobs and empowerment opportunities can be created and multiplied to every strata of society irrespective of the individual's educational qualification, tribe or religious affiliations. Jobs must be provided for everyone at his/her level in order to contribute meaningfully to the development of the country. This will reduce propensity or attraction for drug trafficking.

The NDLEA officials need to be trained and equipped regularly by the government through sponsorship for seminars and workshops abroad in order to keep up with strategies and devices of drug traffickers who attempt to be elusive in laundering drugs. This will show the





seriousness of government at the national and international level in curbing drug trafficking in Nigeria.

Additionally, the academia, religious institutions, traditional rulers, the media and NGOs must collaborate in aggressively sensitizing the youths regularly on the dangers of consuming and trafficking drugs. They must also help in providing skills to the unemployed youths in reducing social vices in the society.

Furthermore, state policing should be encouraged by the civil society due to the large population of Nigerians in order to checkmate the influx of drug trafficking into states, communities and local areas since state policing has become a child of circumstance and a logistical and structural way of managing crime in Nigeria.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the porousness and laxity of the Nigerian borders as well as the irresponsibility and corruption of some of the Nigerian immigration officials in order to curb the influx of drug traffickers

In addition, since the academia plays a large influence on impacting on the youths, academic institutions from the elementary to the tertiary level must create syllabuses that provides 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions to 21<sup>st</sup> century socio-political problems and vices by tilting or focusing its curriculum towards training Nigerian students on public health courses that deal with dangers of trafficking and abuse of illicit substances so that the youths will be unable to be deceived by drug couriers or try to escape poverty trap through the wrong channel.

Lastly, if cultism is regarded as a proscribed entity which is an enemy of the state, so is drug trafficking and more often than not, cultism is usually an avenue through which drug traffickers or drug couriers are recruited ,therefore ,the civil society (academia, religious institutions, traditional institutions and the media) must cooperatively and pragmatically destroy the backbone or institutions that encourage drug trafficking which is cultism through enlightenment and increased public awareness on the dangers of cultism.

Finally, if food, drinks or anything consumed in excess is considered an abuse, so it is with excess intake of narcotics. Therefore, as a last resort if all options are exhausted or if government finds it difficult in totally eliminating narcotics then hard drugs must be legalized, it must be strictly and meticulously regulated and recommended by medical practitioners on health grounds to ensure it is not abused or accessible to the public.

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