

**Investigating the learners' perceptions on the factors that
influence learners to use and abuse drugs: A case study of
one secondary school in the Eastern Cape Province**

By

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DISSERTATION

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DECLARATION

I, Mzingisi Nimrod Pama, hereby declare that this piece of research project is original (except where acknowledgements indicate otherwise) and that neither the whole work nor any part of it has been, or being, or shall be submitted for another degree at this or any other university, institution for tertiary education or examining body.

Signature Date

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my (late) parents (mother and father), all the teachers who taught me from lower levels. Lastly, I dedicate this study to my nephew Nosimphiwe and wife Nonyibiba Pama who allowed me to carry on the study.

ABSTRACT

The research interest in this study was on learners' perceptions on the factors that influence learners to use and abuse drugs. This study discussed learner understanding of drug use and abuse, what learners consider as reasons why learners use and abuse drugs and what could be done to discourage this phenomenon.

The investigation was carried in the central region of the Eastern Cape in Fort Beaufort District. This district covers the rural areas of Nkonkobe municipality. I made use of qualitative methodology to obtain data from a sample of 56 learners and 12 teachers including the principal of the school. This study is located in one high school in the Fort Beaufort District. Methods used included learner surveys, learners' focus group discussions, teachers' focus discussions, learners individual interviews as well as document analysis.

A major finding in this study indicates that learners understood what drugs as well as their effects on those who use and abused them. The learners also unpacked factors that contribute to this phenomenon, which include peer pressure, socialization, stress and others. Teachers and learners also suggested ways in which drug use can be discouraged. Teacher also acknowledged that there was a drug problem amongst learners in their school and that something should urgently be done to discourage this phenomenon.

LIST OF ACRONYMS.

B.A	Bachelor of Arts
C.P.F.	Community Police Forum
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
H.O.D.	Head of Department
HSS	Human Social Sciences
LO	Life Orientation
MA	Masters in Arts
MRC	Medical Research Council
NHSDA	National Health Science on Drug Abuse
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
PGCE	Post Graduate studies in Education
SABC	South African Broadcasting Cooperation
SACENDU	South African Council on Education on National Drug Use
SAMHSA	South African Medical Health on Substance Abuse
SGB	School Governing Body
SMT	School Management Team
SANCA	South African National Council on Abuse
TV	Television set
UCT	University of Cape Town
U.S.A.	United States of America

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