



INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE

25th – 27th January 2012

Kenya Institute of Administration

1. INTRODUCTION

The abuse of alcohol and other substances, including narcotic drugs, has permeated every sphere of the Kenyan society leaving behind untold suffering, decay and underdevelopment.

Drug abuse is a noted danger to public health and the quality of life that consequently affects the political, economic and social stability of the nation. Previously viewed as a social and criminal problem, drug abuse and illicit trafficking has in the recent years become a major threat to the health and security of all persons as it is responsible for the destruction of many, majority in their prime age.

According to a National Survey on Alcohol and Drug Use undertaken by NACADA in the year 2007, at least 13% of Kenyans aged 15 and 65 are current consumers of alcohol. The report further indicated that alcohol poses the greatest harm to Kenyans as evidenced by the numerous calamities associated with excessive consumption and adulteration of alcohol. Just last month, thirty two (32) deaths were reported following the consumption of adulterated (poisoned) alcohol. Others that survived the ordeal are reported to have lost their sight.

Tobacco is consumed by almost 7 million Kenyans, which translates to about 22% of persons aged 15 – 65 years. In addition, over 5.5% of the same population was reported to chew Khat, a stimulant that when chewed, produces cathinone, an internationally controlled drug under schedule I of the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

On narcotics, cannabis is the number one most preferred narcotic in Kenya followed by heroin and cocaine. Emerging trends also point to the growing demand for synthetic drugs and amphetamines. According to the 2007 report, close to 400,000 Kenyans aged between 15 and 65 years smoke cannabis whilst 0.1 % of the same population use heroin.

The above figures are however noted to have escalated as indicated in subsequent sectional or regional surveys. An example is the increase in the abuse of heroin in Kenya's Coast Province from 0.4% in 2007 to 2.6% in 2009.

2. EFFECTS OF ADA

The effects of alcohol and other substances of abuse are many and fatal. As a social and health problem, its intricacies are evidenced by the far reaching effects it has had on individuals, families and societies.

The Socio economic effects of alcohol and drug abuse are among others:- Under development, unproductivity, job market loss, increased levels of household poverty, Idleness and hooliganism , Illiteracy and child labor, corruption, loss of investor confidence and broken families due to irresponsibility, impotence and violence.

On the other hand, the health complication associated with drug abuse include: - various cancers and ulcers, kidney and liver dysfunctions, inability to control bowels, diarrhea and associated ‘hygiene’ infections, impotence, partial or complete blindness and ultimate death.

Further, findings from a survey conducted by NACADA of fourteen (14) public sector institutions in December 2010, indicated that the current usage of alcohol in the workplace ranged from a high of 68 to a low of 27%. The consumption of tobacco products ranged between 16.8 and 37.2% and that of Miraa at a clustered 5%. From the survey, it was noted that the abuse of alcohol and other substances results into:-

- Workplace conflicts;
- Health complications;
- Frequent sick leaves and health-related absenteeism;
- Accidents due to poor concentration;
- Increased risk of job termination;
- Poor performance;
- Corruption;
- Violence and,
- Family breakages.

The above effects are noted to strain the Government’s developmental initiatives and place an immense burden on families.

3. GOVERNMENT’S EFFORTS IN FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE

The Government of Kenya recognizes that alcohol, drug abuse and illicit trafficking pose serious challenges to the nation’s development including attainment of global goals such as the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards addressing the problem of drug abuse, the Government in the year 2007 established the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority. The Authority was mandated to coordinate a multi-sectoral campaign against drug abuse in Kenya and its core functions include:-

- To provide directly or in collaboration with other institutions, agencies or organizations, facilities for coordination of public education against drug abuse;
- To co-ordinate the implementation of the National Action Plan on curbing drug abuse by citizens of Kenya especially the youth and children;
- To play an effective role in the development, setting up and, expansion of rehabilitation centres for the rehabilitation of drug dependants;

- To prepare and maintain a register of licensed persons to offer expert advice on treatment and prevention services in the field of drug abuse;
- To liaise with relevant authorities in carrying out training or approving the training curriculum of trainers in the campaign against drug abuse;
- To advise on best practices and discipline of licensed drug rehabilitation operators;
- To undertake research directly or in collaboration with other organisations or bodies on matters relating to drug abuse and chemical substances.

4. THE CONFERENCE

Owing the continued deterioration of the country's drug abuse situation, NACADA plans to host a National Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to specifically:-

- a) To create awareness amongst key stakeholders on the socio-economic effects of drug abuse towards declaration of ADA a national disaster;
- b) Provide a platform for key stakeholders to share their experiences in undertaking drug related programmes.
- c) Document best practices in the prevention, control and mitigation of alcohol and drug abuse.

It is therefore imperative that participants review current trends on drug abuse to inform the development of effective and sustainable programmes towards the prevention, control and mitigation of drug abuse.

5. PRESENTATIONS

There shall be two (2) categories of presentations:-

5.1. Plenary presentations: These will be presented by renowned personalities in their line of profession.

Topics at plenary will include:-

- The campaign – achievements and challenges
- Global trends of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Alcohol and drug abuse and national security
- Alcohol and drug abuse and the economy
- Alcohol and drug abuse in the workplace
- Challenges posed by drug trafficking
- Drug addiction and related illnesses
- The Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2010

5.2. Paper presentations: These will be presented in the breakaway meetings. The papers will focus on the health and socio-economic effects of alcohol and drug abuse and best practices in the prevention, control and mitigation of drug abuse.

a) Guidelines for papers on health and socio-economic effects

The research papers should be completed and a summary prepared within the following components:-

- Background of the study
- Problem Statement and Justification
- Study Goal and Objectives
- Literature review (brief)
- Methodology
- Key findings
- Implications of the findings to the Campaign against drug abuse
- Lessons learnt from the findings
- Research gaps
- Recommendation for policy development
- Key References

b) Guidelines for papers on Best Practice

The case study may include themes that demonstrate best practices and lessons learned which other stakeholders can adapt. The theme could be focused on anti-drugs public education and awareness, treatment and rehabilitation, policy and research.

The submitted case studies should include:-

- Problem statement/policy issue addressed and its importance
- Impact of the problem
- Steps taken to address the problem
- Results
- Challenges
- Lessons learned
- Recommendations

6. FEES PAYABLE

The registration fee is Ksh. 1,500 payable to:

A/C: NAME: NACADA AUTHORITY
A/C NO: 0180296330592
BRANCH: COMMUNITY
BANK CODE: 068
SWIFT CODE: EQBLKENA

The closing date for registration is set at 15th January 2012.

The fee will cover stationery, lunch and tea. HOWEVER, it does not cover participant's accommodation and transport.

7. PARTICIPATION

The Conference is open to all with a minimum target of 500 participants. Participants are to pre register by completing the attached registration form. The completed form and evidence of payment should be emailed to conference@nacada.go.ke or faxed to **020- 2721994**.

8. VENUE & DATE

The Conference shall take place on January, 25th – 27th 2012 at the Kenya Institute of Administration.

9. CONFERENCE PACKAGE

Participants shall be provided with a conference bag containing a T-Shirt, Pen, Note book, branded assorted publications and publicity materials and a certificate of participation.

For further information you can contact:

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