

CHAPTER EIGHT

SOCIAL ISSUES

7.1 DRUG ABUSE

Drug is a substance use in the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication.

Drug abuse is the wrong use of drug without medical advice or doctor's prescription. Drug abuse is on the increase in our society today and is very common among the youths.

It can also be defined as a chemical substance, such as narcotic, or hallucinogen, that affects the central nervous system, causing changes in behaviour and often addiction.

Drug abuse is the use of drug for purpose other than for which it is normally prescribed or recommended i.e. habitual use of drugs to alter one's mood, emotions or state of consciousness.

Drug abuse can also be viewed as the use of a drug (either licit or illicit) in sufficient quantity and frequency to interfere with a person's ability to make sound life decisions, perform appropriate actions and fulfill responsibilities with the result that the person is unable to be law abiding and self-supporting.

Drug abuse is a common social issue in our society and young people and some adults engage in drug abuse.

Drug abuse is the use of a drug to an extent that produces impairment of social, psychological or physiological functions. The use of drug other than for its accepted medical purpose or in doses greater than those considered appropriate.

The negative consequences of drug abuse affect not only individuals who abuse drugs but also their families, and friends, various businesses, government and society at large. It is a social issue in the society.

Forms of Drug Abuse

Several types of drugs are abused. The most commonly abused drugs are Marijuana or hashish, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine (a potent psychostimulant that has mood-elevating effects), nicotine, barbiturates, alcohol (sedative), hallucinogen, anabolic steroid use (for growth of skeletal muscle and increase lean body mass) athletes and others who use steroids to enhance performance and improve physical appearance place themselves at risk of numerous health hazards like liver tumors, jaundice, high blood pressure and psychiatric disorders etc.

Drugs however can be abused through different ways such as taking an overdose, smoking, inhaling, sniffing or injecting dangerous substances into the body.



Pictures showing different drugs

Causes of Drug Abuse

There are many causes of drug abuse. They include:

1. **Family Situation** i.e. lack of parental supervision, very little or no display of love and affection to the children or a chaotic home environment can cause drug abuse.
2. **Social Factor** - The influence of peer groups or wayward peers may lead to drug abuse.
3. **Biological factor** - Those with a family history of substance abuse and those who may suffer from some type of personality or psychiatric disorder can be susceptible to drug abuse.
4. **Psychological factor** - Those who suffer from a low self-esteem. Those who are bored and curious and those who use drugs as a means of relieving stress.
5. **Physical** - If a person suffers from an untreated condition that causes him pain, he may turn to illegal use of drugs such as cocaine or heroin to alleviate it.
6. Due to curiosity and social rebelliousness.
7. To escape reality.
8. Childhood loss or trauma.

Consequences of Drug Abuse

The negative consequences of drug abuse affect not only individuals who abuse drugs but also their families and friends, various businesses, government and society at large.

Some of the consequences are **(i) On the Individual**

(a) Ill-health, sickness and ultimately death.

(b) Children whose parents and other family members' abuse drugs often, are physically or emotionally abused and often lack medical care and basic necessities of life since there is nobody to take care of them.

(c) It can bring about domestic violence, robbery, road accidents, loss of jobs, madness.

(d) Addicts in a workplace pose a serious threat to people around them.

(e) The drug addicts are liabilities to their families, government and society.

(f) Excessive taking of drugs can lead to cancer, diabetes and other terminal diseases.

(ii) On the community/Nation

1. Social effects: It can lead to increase in the rate of crime in the community or nation e.g. robbery, violence, sexual abuse, prostitution, rape, drug trafficking etc.
2. It can lead to road accidents, traffic related casualties are linked to alcohol use.
3. Drug abuse impairs productivity especially in a nation.
4. It causes government to spend a lot of money that could otherwise be spent on education and other social services.
5. It gives bad image to the community and the nation.
6. It reduces the economic development of the country.

1. On the International Community

1. It is a global issue - the use of drug in the sport and entertainment industry world wide negatively influence their fans and supporters. It adversely affect, some of these athletes and musicians. Some athletes use drug to gain undue advantage over others. Some musicians use drugs to enhance their performance. The sudden death of Michael was attributed to excessive use of drugs.
2. Social effect on health e.g. ill-health, sickness and ultimately death.
3. Trafficking in illicit or dangerous drugs worldwide is a common occurrence e.g. Cocaine or heroin pushers or peddlers are often arrested in various airports around the world.



Picture showing a drug addict

Ways of Discouraging Drug Abuse

Substance abuse is one of the most prevalent issues that the current generation is forced to face. It has been around for centuries and has afflicted millions of people around the world. It is one of the worst social ills. Drug and alcohol addiction do not only affect the individual himself but also everyone around him. It is a social ill because practically every country in the world is compelled to come up with legislation, policies and other ideas geared at

addressing the problem.

Some of the measures to prevent it are:

1. Family awareness - Parents should engage in conversation and communicate with their children on the effects of drug.
2. Preventive education programme showing the dangers of drug abuse.
3. Training medical and paramedical students on the rational use of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.
4. Dissemination of information on drug abuse.
5. The use of mass communication and media as an educational channel.
6. Treatment and rehabilitation of young people who are drug abusers or drug dependent and young alcoholics and tobacco users.
7. The appropriate agencies such as Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) should organise workshops, lectures, seminars from time to time to disseminate information on effects of drug abuse.
8. The government must work in collaboration with international organisations like WHO to fight drug abuse.

The vulnerability of young people to drug abuse has in recent years become a major concern. The consequences of widespread drug abuse and trafficking particularly for young men and women are all too apparent. Therefore drastic laws must be applied to solve the problems. The effects of drug abuse are too enormous in the society.

7.2 DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking is the transportation and trade of illegal drugs across international borders or state line. It is the illegal production and distribution of controlled substances. It includes the money, involved in the phases of the illegal drug business, but it encompasses far more than that, drug trafficking has far-reaching effects on many aspects of society, from the presence of gangs and gang-related violence to the impact of drug money in poor neighbourhood.

The illegal drug trade or drug trafficking is a global black market consisting of the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of illegal controlled drugs.

Drug trafficking is the largest illegal business in the world, making about 8% of the international trade translated in about \$400 billion annually. This trade enriches the drug barons, gangsters, corrupt politicians etc.

Drug use and its consequences threaten and affect the nation and its people.

Today, drug trafficking is a scourge that is affecting practically all nations and their youths.

Reasons for Drug Trafficking

People engage in drug trafficking for the following reasons:

1. Greed.
2. Poverty
3. Unemployment
4. Get rich quick syndrome
5. Laziness
6. Ignorance

7. Lucrative nature of the business
8. Influence of bad group.
9. Economic problems.
10. Disillusion, depression and lack of a goal in life.

Consequences of Drug Trafficking

1. Life imprisonment when an offender is caught.
2. It gives bad image to the country.
3. Imprisonment or in some countries an offender may face death penalty. There have been cases where offenders were beheaded, executed either by hanging or firing squad.
4. Drug traffickers when arrested are regarded as criminals. Their conduct brings disgrace, shame and bad image not only to themselves but also to their families.
5. It promotes and increases crime rate in the society especially among the youths. There is a clear link between crime and drug use and drug trafficking. Therefore drug traffickers are enemies of the society.
6. It can induce a violent behaviour even on persons that are normally calm and quiet.

Prevention of Drug Trafficking

1. Employment - people must be gainfully employed especially the youth.
2. Education - people must be educated on the dangers and consequences of drug trafficking.
3. Poverty as a scourge must be eradicated through poverty alleviation programmes.
4. The police, customs, immigration agency and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency must be well trained and well equipped to combat drug trafficking.
5. Offenders or drug traffickers must be made to face the law and if found guilty, sentenced to jail.
6. There must be international co-operation with other countries to fight the war on drug trafficking.

7.3 CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is the physical and/or psychological/emotional mistreatment of children. Child abuse constitutes all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility trust or power i.e. any act or series of acts by parents or others that result in harm, potential harm or threat of harm to a child.

Types of Child Abuse

There are four major categories of child abuse.

1. **Neglect** - This is a situation in which parents fail to adequately provide for various needs including physical (failure to provide adequate food, clothing or hygiene) emotional (failure to provide affection, love, care etc) educational (failure to enroll a child in school).

2. **Physical Abuse** - This is physical aggression directed at a child by an adult. It can involve beating, burning, choking or shaking a child. Please note that there is distinction between discipline of a child and abuse of a child which is often poorly defined. Discipline is for corrective measure and not to harm or inflict pain on the child.
3. **Child sexual abuse** - is any sexual act between adult and a child including penetration, oral sex and forced nudity in front of the adult i.e. inappropriate sexual behaviour with a child.
4. **Psychological Abuse** - also known as emotional abuse, which can involve belittling or shaming a child, inappropriate or extreme punishment and the withholding of affection, love and care from a child
5. **Child labour** - Commercial or other exploitation of a child e.g. hawking, street trading, child prostitution, slavery etc, These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health education or spiritual, moral or socio-emotional development.

Causes of Child Abuse

Child abuse is a complex problem which has multiple causes. There are many interacting causes of child abuse.

1. Parents who physically abuse their spouses are more likely to physically abuse their children.
2. Parents with documented substance abuse, most commonly alcohol, cocaine, and heroin are much more likely to mal-treat their children. It has been found that there is a relationship between alcohol and physical abuse.
3. Poverty can cause child abuse.
4. Divorce, sickness and unwanted pregnancy, unemployment can cause child abuse.
5. Isolation and lack of support for colic baby.
6. Abuse of substance (drugs, alcohol etc).

Child abuse is a very complex and dangerous set of problems that include child neglect and the physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children.

Effect of Child Abuse

1. It will alienate the child from the family and the society.
2. It lowers child's self-esteem and affects child's psychological development and ability to behave normally outside his/her home.
3. It will encourage a child to lie, resent, fear and retaliate instead of loving, trusting and listening.
4. It makes a child to be violent and aggressive and develop poor relationship with peers and the opposite sex.
5. It may affect mental, emotional and psychological development of the child.
6. There is a serious risk for social, emotional, behavioural and psychiatric problem.
7. Physical pain, trauma and emotional depression may lead to physical disabilities.
8. Mental illness, developmental delay, truancy, dropping out of school, juvenile delinquency and criminal activity.

Prevention of Child Abuse

1. Provision of education and training - educating parents and guardians.
2. Dissemination of information on effects of child abuse to the public.
3. There is need for private and civil society organisation to mount an aggressive proactive campaign to support the work of government in stemming the tide of child abuse.
4. Good home training - Be a nurturing parent. Children need to know that they are special, loved and capable of realizing their goals or dreams in life.

7.4 SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual contact and touching in a non-consensual manner that is offensive to that person.

(i) Domestic Violence - An incident or pattern of behaviours (which may include physical, emotional, economic, verbal and or sexual abuse) that a person uses to gain power and control within an intimate relationship. Domestic usually refers to live - in partners, former live - in partner or adult relative who live in the same household.

(ii) Stalking - Legally defined as "a repeated course of conduct intended to cause, fear of bodily injury or death". This is commonly used to include following and or repeated harassment, regardless of intent.

(iii) Molestation - Sexual abuse involving sexual stimulation to body and genital areas including penetration.

(iv) Marital Rape - Sexual abuse perpetrated by one spouse on the other or by a sexual partner in any long-term committed relationship.

(v) Voyeurism - Invasion of a victim's privacy either secretly or openly with the intent of gaining sexual gratification.

(vi) Obscene phone calls - Invasion of a victim's privacy with sexually suggestive messages over the telephone in an effort to shock, intimidate or sexually arouse a victim.

(vii) Sexual Violence - Acts of violence involving or harming sexual parts of the victim's body.

7.5 ILLITERACY

Illiteracy is a social problem. According to the United Nations, illiteracy is the inability to read and write a simple sentence in any language. The condition or state of being ignorant or unknowledgeable in a particular subject or field due to inability to read and write, either because of lack of education or learning.

Illiteracy is the state of being illiterate or uneducated. An illiterate person is someone who is unable to read and write.

However, being literate is a pre-requisite for succeeding in today's technologically advanced and quickly evolving global society. Every person needs to acquire literacy in his/her early development because reading and writing are useful skills in so many daily activities.

Causes of Illiteracy

There are many interacting causes of illiteracy in the society.

1. Poverty - Many parents could not send their children to school because of poverty. Poverty is a cause of illiteracy.
2. Economic problem as a result of poverty. Economic instability

- can affect the ability of people to become literate.
3. Traditions and values in African society especially in olden days when only boys were allowed to go to school. Traditions and values serve as cause of illiteracy.
 4. Get rich quick syndrome - many young people want to get rich as quickly as possible. Therefore to them education is a waste of time. The craze for material acquisition or materialism.
 5. Wrong attitude to education - There is a notion that if some people can survive without formal education, them any other person can. Such parents may not encourage their children to acquire education.
 6. Instability in government policy on education and lack of proper funding of education from primary to university is a contributory factor to illiteracy. Education is not a priority of Nigerian government.
 7. Lack of access to reading and writing materials.

Consequences of Illiteracy

Illiteracy negatively impacts a nation's ability to develop its human and natural resources.

1. Ignorance - Illiteracy promotes ignorance i.e. lack of knowledge.
2. Illiterate people cannot contribute meaningfully to national development.
3. They develop sense of inferiority complex especially when in the midst of educated people.
4. Illiteracy retards progress and development in science and technology.
5. Illiteracy does not encourage positive social change, personal growth or the preservation and development of language and culture.
6. Illiterate people can easily be cheated and manipulated by dishonest people. They are gullible.
7. It can lead to poverty, crime, unemployment, violence, robbery and other social vices in the society.
8. There may be envy, jealousy and frustration.
9. Illiteracy prevents people from knowing their rights.
10. It can also lead to abuse of any form-child abuse, sexual abuse etc.

Solutions to Illiteracy

1. Free and compulsory education at all levels of educational system.
2. Education should be a right and this must be supported by constitutional provision.
3. Mass literacy campaign must be encouraged.
4. Government must encourage parents to send their children to school at early stage or age.
5. Parental guidance and support must be encouraged.
6. There should be scholarship programme for children of poor parents who can not afford to send their children to school.
7. Government must encourage technical and vocational skills in

schools.

8. There should be international co-operation in the area of education.

9. Women education is important since mothers are the first educators of children. They will teach their children who will in turn teach their children. It has been argued that the increase in literacy is directly correlated with positive economic growth. In the past education was not required, but in this day, universal education is becoming a necessity. Therefore, innovative solution should be implemented to take advantage of this unique time in history.

7.6 POVERTY

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights defined poverty as a human condition characterized by the sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

Poverty therefore is the shortage of common things such as food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water, all of which determine the quality of life. Poverty is a condition in which a person or community is deprived of or lacks the essentials of life for a minimum standard of well-being and good quality of life.

People are said to be living in poverty if their income and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living considered acceptable in society.

Poverty is the state of living on less than \$2 a day according to the World Bank. Poverty can also represent a lack of opportunity and empowerment and bad quality of life in general. The state of being poor or lack of the means of proving material needs or comforts. In Nigeria today, a lot of people are experiencing chronic poverty and many are living in abject poverty.

Therefore, poverty is a certain level of material deprivation below which an individual suffers physically, emotionally, and socially.

Some Features of Poverty

1. Poverty is hunger.
2. Poverty is lack of shelter
3. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor.
4. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read and write.
5. Poverty is not having a job.
6. Poverty is fear of the future.
7. Poverty is living one day at a time.
8. Poverty is losing a child to illness.
9. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.
10. Poverty is joblessness.



Picture of a poor family

Causes of Poverty

There is no single cause of poverty. Poverty is too complex an issue to be the result of just one problem. There are, however many inter-related factors that contribute to poverty in developing nations like Nigeria.

1. Lack of education keeps children from obtaining jobs that would lift them and their families out of poverty. Often children are kept from school because they are needed at home to support their family with additional income.
2. Inadequate resources and pattern of distribution - may prevent people from having access to loans and other financial benefits that will enable them to establish businesses to increase their income.
3. Diseases may also cause poverty. Health and poverty are intrinsically linked together. Decreases in health create increases in poverty and vice versa. Poor health decreases the amount of work impoverished individuals can do, lowering their income and driving them deeper in to poverty. The onset of disease such as HIV/AIDS or malaria can result in death (which can cut off a major source of income for a family) or high medical costs that many impoverished families cannot afford.
4. Extended family system. It is typical of African societies and is also a big source of poverty.
5. Spending Habits - The spending habits of many people can also be a cause of poverty to them. Many people are not prudent in spending money. They spend lavishly at social functions such as funeral ceremony, wedding ceremony etc. People should spend wisely and save for raining day.
6. Untapped natural resources - Natural resources are found in many parts of the country. In discussing about mineral resources all over the world, it is important to also note that there is no country that is not endowed with one or more mineral resources no matter how big or small the country may be. Nigeria is abundantly blessed with both human and natural resources. But the country could not effectively harness the available resources

due to mismanagement, bribery and corruption, lack of technical know-how and bad leadership.

7. Level of illiteracy - The level of literacy in a country is also a cause of poverty. Some people cannot read and write. As a result, they lack basic skills that can make them function effectively in the society.
8. Keeping or raising a large family may also cause poverty.
9. Population - A country with high population will experience poverty unless the population is controlled.

Cycle of Poverty

Increasingly, people talk about the “cycle of poverty” that keeps the poor locked into poverty. Basically, because of the poverty that the poor are already experiencing, they and their children are not able to break out. Imagine that you are a six-year old child in an impoverished family in Nigeria. Your parents might want to send you to school but are unable to because they need you to work so that your family can be supported. Later on in life, when you try and get a job, you will be limited to low-paying occupations because of your lack of education. You will be forced into poverty once more.

Consequences of Poverty

Poverty is the deprivation of common necessities such as food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water, all of which determine our quality of life. Poverty brings about undesirable pain and suffering. Therefore, it affects individuals, groups and society at large. The consequences of poverty include:

- (i) Poor quality of life - lack of the essentials for a minimum standard of living.
- (ii) Lack of access to essential health services - that may cause diseases.
- (iii) Those living in poverty suffer inner life expectance.
- (iv) Poverty increases the risk of homelessness.
- (v) It leads to drug abuse, crime and violence, prostitution, armed robbery, human trafficking etc.
- (vi) It may lead people to commit suicide due to hopelessness and despair, when life is too harsh and becomes unbearable.
- (vii) Poverty brings about low income levels and unemployment i.e. lack of viable employment opportunities.
- (viii) Increases in teenage pregnancy.
- (ix) Juvenile delinquency rates.
- (x) Mal-nutrition and starvation - in developing countries e.g. Nigeria, the poorest people cannot obtain adequate calories to develop or maintain their appropriate body weight.

Possible Alleviation /Poverty Solutions Strategies

“The Education and Empowerment of Women is the greatest weapon in the war against poverty” - Kofi Anna Former UN Secretary General.

The possible solutions to poverty clearly depend on what is chiefly causing it, and this can clearly vary with time and place.

1. Improving infrastructures such as clean water, good roads, access to affordable health care etc.
2. Education - provision of qualitative and functional education. Education that requires acquisition of skills.
3. Development of agriculture.
4. Creation of jobs.

5. Empowering groups and youths to identify and utilize local resources effectively.
6. Providing training to transform various communities.
7. Help to provide the poor with loans that empower them to succeed.
8. Need for innovative ideas to eradicate poverty - public and private sector and civil society must be involved.

Poverty Alleviation Strategies

It is important to state that reducing poverty requires a focus both on what government needs to do and on what individuals need to do. We need a combination of responsible policies and responsible behaviour.

However, over the years successive governments have put in place some policies and programmes to alleviate if not eradicate this menace from the society. Some of these steps are:

1. Education - The federal government has introduced Universal Basic Education (UBE) to make education available to Nigerian children of school age.
2. The establishment of National Directorate of Employment (NDE) for vocational and technical training.
3. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS). All these agencies are established to alleviate poverty from the society. They are to educate people to acquire skills, education and create employment opportunities for people.

Poverty is a call to action - for the poor and the wealthy alike - a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence and a voice in what happens in their communities.

7.7 CRIME, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

Corruption is a term with many meanings, but generally it entails mis-using one's office or position for a private gain or unofficial end. This involves both monetary and non-monetary benefit e.g. bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism, scams, fraud etc. Corruption also can be described as the offering, giving, soliciting or accepting of an inducement or reward which may influence the action of any person.

Corruption is often carried along side bribery, the means by which the politicians or officials are induced to become corrupt. In Nigeria, corruption is endemic and it pervades all levels of government and private sector. It involves the giving or taking of a bribe, or illegal acquisition of wealth using the resources of a public office.

Corruption in Nigeria manifests in different forms. For example, its manifestations include:

1. the inflation of government contract in return for kickbacks.
2. Frauds and falsification of accounts in the public service or private sector
3. examination malpractices in our educational institutions including universities
4. the giving and taking of bribes
5. the various heinous crimes against the state in the business and industrial sectors of our economy such as over-invoicing of goods, foreign exchange swindling, hoarding and smuggling etc.

Corruption in Nigeria has been elevated to state policy. Corruption thrives in Nigeria because the society sanctions or encourages it. But, corruption is harmful and wrong. **Corruption destroys the fabric of a nation. It kills not only the soul of an individual but also the conscience of a nation.** **Therefore, we must abhor corruption in all our dealings.** Corrupt citizens are likely to be a liability rather than asset. Nigerian people must support the effort of the current government in combating corruption. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corruption Practices Commission (ICPC) set up by the Obasanjo administration must be allowed to succeed in reducing, if not completely eradicating corruption in our society.

Crime is any act that breaks the law of the land. A crime is a violation of criminal law. It is an offence that is punishable by law. Crime in a broad sense is an act that violates a political or moral law of any person or group of persons e.g. reckless driving, murder, robbery, traffic offences etc.

Please students shun corruption in any form!**Types of Corruption**

Corruption manifests in different forms and ways. These include:

1. **Nepotism and Favouritism:** It is a situation where appointments, contracts, jobs are given to people on the basis of religion, tribe etc.
2. **Embezzlement:** This refers to a situation, where an official steals or misappropriates public funds or convert public funds for his own personal use. This is common among Nigerian politicians. It is to the common knowledge of everybody that top government officials embezzle public fund,
3. **Extortion of money from the public:** Some public officers extort money from the people. This is common among the police. The police collects illegal fees from the motorists at check points.
4. **Bribery:** This involves the giving and taking of a bribe or illegal acquisition of wealth using the resource of the public.
5. **Advance Fee Fraud Popularly known as "419":** This takes the deceit, forgery, blackmail, impersonation, and other means such as internet fraud or "Yahoo Yahoo". Fraudsters trick their victims into the fraud

Corruption is not only through embezzlement, bribery, extortion of money, favouritism etc. Corruption may also take other forms such as child abuse, sexual harassment, examination malpractice. There is corruption of mind when a mind is corrupt such mind engages in a bad thing at anytime. So train your mind through spiritual and character development.



Picture showing a police officer collecting bribe **Causes of Corruption**

1. Greed and lack of contentment.
2. Poverty promotes corruption.
3. Crazy materialism – excessive attachment to material wealth.
4. Lack of good home training and character development.
5. Economic insecurity.
6. Collapse of societal values.
7. Illiteracy and ignorance.
8. Poor conditions of service.

Consequences of Bribery and Corruption

1. Corruption gives a country bad image.
2. It retards progress and development of a country.
3. Corruption destroys the value system in a society as the case in Nigeria today.
4. It serves as obstacle to foreign investment.
5. It serves as obstacle to the provision of social services as money meant for social services are diverted or embezzled.
6. It is a threat to economic growth and development.
7. Corruption destroys a nation. It kills the conscience of a nation.
8. Results in crimes such as stealing robbery.



Picture showing a corrupt person collecting bribe

Prevention of Corruption

- (i) Hardwork - people should be encouraged to cultivate the habit of hardwork and hardwork should be rewarded adequately.
- (ii) Creation of employment opportunities. Government should create jobs to enable people to be gainfully employed.
- (iii) Provision of education and mass literacy campaign to stop illiteracy and ignorance.
- (iv) There should be orientation toward good value system e.g. honesty, integrity, loyalty, co-operation, dignity of labour etc should be encouraged and promoted.
- (v) Corrupt people especially public office holders should be exposed and severely dealt with.
- (vi) All anti-corruption agencies should be supported to eradicate corruption.
- (vii) The teaching of moral instruction or religious instruction and civic education should be encouraged.
- (viii) Anybody who takes or gives bribe should be punished.
- (ix) Poverty should be eradicated.

7.8 CULTISM

Cultism can be defined as a ritual practice by a group of people whose membership, admission, policy and initiation formalities as well as their mode of operation are done in secret and kept secret with their activities having negative effects on both members and non-members alike.

Cultism is an anti-social behaviour which is a deviant act. It is at variance with established norms of behaviour. It is a non-conforming behaviour which usually contravenes the social rules of an institution in particular and the society in general.

Secret cults are those organisations whose activities are known to members only. There are signs and symbols that may not make any meaning to outsiders. They engage in nocturnal activities like initiation ceremonies and meetings that involve blood oath taking.

In essence a cult is a group or movement of people exhibiting a great or excessive devotion or dedication to some person, ideal or thing and employing unethically manipulative techniques of persuasion and control e.g. isolation from former friends and family, powerful group pressure, information management, promotion of total dependency on the group and

fear of (consequences of) leaving it etc designed to advance the goals of the group to the actual detriment of members, their families or the community.

Cult's members engage in all manners of evil such as maiming, murder/killing, examination malpractice, robbery, rape, arson, intimidation of fellow students and lecturers for good grades, love (girl friends) and clashes with rival cults' groups etc.

The existence of cultism in Nigeria dates back to pre-colonialism when a group of individuals with the main objective of seeking protection from their ancestors conducted rituals. Initiations were normally carried out for those who wanted to belong to the secret cult. And once initiated, the secrets were religiously and sacredly observed by members.

However, cultism in Nigerian universities has been traced to the formation of the Pirates Confraternity also known as National Association of Sea Dogs by Professor Wole Soyinka and his friends at the then University College, Ibadan (now the University of Ibadan) in 1952. It was not initially formed for negative activities but gradually due to corruption and bad governance cultism became violence. Since then the activities of secret cults have increased and spread to other universities. Today, Nigerian educational institutions are beset by many lands of cancerous problems of cultism. Notable among secret cults in higher institutions are: Pirates Confraternity, Black Eye, Vikings, Buccaneers, Black Axe, Black Beset, Daughters of Jezebel and others.



Picture showing cult members

Causes of Cultism

1. Search for responsibility - Some students join cult groups in order to perform certain services for members e.g. to fight perceived injustice in their school or campuses against their members.
2. Search for satisfaction of one's aspirations and needs e.g. students may belong to cult group to ensure high success in academic pursuits.
3. Search for security - many students especially the females join cults for protection. Some male students join to secure their girl friends.
4. Search for social identity - some join cult groups to be popular. They want to be regarded as powerful peoples. For them, it is a

way of achieving prestige and greatness. It is their belief that they could influence decisions on campus.

5. Some join to gain respect and recognition.
6. There are others who join cults because they want to create avenues to exhibit and diffuse frustrations from the family, school and society.
7. Some students join because of wealth or financial assistance.
8. Others join to hide their weaknesses (inferiority complex) academic or social.
9. Some are forced to join while others feel that the objective of the cults are laudable and worthwhile.
10. Parental and home background may lead one to join cult. Some children may be influenced by their parent's involvement in similar activities. Some parents are members of secret cult.
11. Children from broken homes may find solace in cultism. A home that is characterized by child abuse, intolerance, violence, insecurity and hostility may be a breeding ground for prospective cult members.
12. Emotional problem - children with emotional problem may be frustrated and fed up with life. They may join cult as a way out.
13. Peer group influence - some join cult because their friends are members.
14. The nature of society may encourage cultism e.g. the Nigerian society is materialistic. There is mad rush for quick wealth and power. Some powerful members of the society sometimes unleash terror on the other members of the society. There are fraudsters, kidnappers, ritualist, murders etc. The children who grow up in such kind of environment may see nothing wrong in joining the cult.
15. In some institutions, certain administrators and lecturers are members of secret cult. This may encourage students to also join. There are allegations that some principal officers in the universities are members of secret cult.
16. Other causes are foreign values e.g. mass media - through the importation of occultic foreign films.
17. Militarisation of the society particularly during military era. The nature of our military especially with culture of violence supported youths to join secret cult with proliferation of arms.

Consequences of Cultism

1. Harassment of students and lecturers and staff and destruction of property.
2. Untimely death of cultists and innocent students, staff and lecturers in our institutions.
3. Expulsion and rustication of students.
4. Some students have their academic programmes ended abruptly or are asked to withdraw and many have spent more than the required number of years of graduation.
5. Closure of universities and destruction of academic calendar of many universities e.g. in April 2004, suspected cults threatened to kill the then University of Benin Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emmanuel Nwanze for daring to set up a committee on renunciation of cultism and investigate the killing of two medical students in the institution by suspected cultists.
6. It may lead to violence and encourage criminal behaviour

among the students.

7. Breakdown of societal values and moral decadence.
8. It encourages examination malpractice.
9. Cultists operate freely with dangerous guns to threaten other students and lecturers.

Solutions to Cultism

Cultism is an anti-social or deviant activity which usually contravenes the norms or social rules of an institution that is meant to provide education for the individuals or students.

1. Good home training – Parents should train their children about the bad effects of cultism. Parents' guidance is very important.
2. There is need to provide educational training about the evils of cultism in the society.
3. The university authorities should embark on special training to prevent cultism or identify cultists.
4. There should be bold and clear bill boards warning against cultism.
5. The security agencies e.g. police should be well equipped to combat cultism on campuses.
6. Parents should be made to sign undertakings on behalf of their children before they are admitted into university.
7. There should be aggressive campaign and enlightenment against cultism.
8. Government must ban every form of cultism in schools and society.
9. Religious institutions should educate their followers especially students about the evils of cultism.
10. Government must give adequate priority to education through proper funding of education especially in terms of facilities and making environment conducive for learning for students.
11. The university authorities should proscribe any society or club on campus with nocturnal and nefarious activities.
12. University authorities should provide recreational facilities that will engage the attention of students on campus.
13. Appropriate punishment should be given to cultists – such as suspension, rustication or expulsion.

7.9 TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Traffic rules and regulations are put in place for the safety of all road users. Driving on our roads is guided by the traffic rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are meant to reduce accidents, traffic congestion etc. This is to ensure safety on our roads.

Traffic Rules and Regulations

Traffic rules and regulations are put in place for the safety of all road users. Driving on our roads is guided by the traffic rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are meant to reduce traffic jams or hold ups on our roads, accidents, traffic congestion.

- (i) Motorists should exercise full concentration while driving.
- (ii) Motorists should ensure that their vehicles are in good condition before putting them on the road.
- (iii) Motorists must respect zebra crossing at all times.

1. Motorists should avoid reckless and excessive speeding.

2. Motorists must always maintain speed limits.
3. Pedestrians should use pedestrian bridges where provided.
4. Pedestrians should use or walk on the pavement at all times.
5. Motorists must avoid smoking and drinking while driving.
6. Motorists should always flash their indicators to show which way or side they are turning to.
7. Motorists should park their vehicles properly on the side of the road whenever they have to do so.
8. Motorists should use the safety belt. Before a driver takes off he should fasten his safety belt.
9. Motorcyclists should also put on their crash helmets when riding their motorcycles.
10. Motorists should obtain the necessary vehicles particulars such as vehicle licence, driver's licence and insurance document.
11. All road users should always obey road signs.

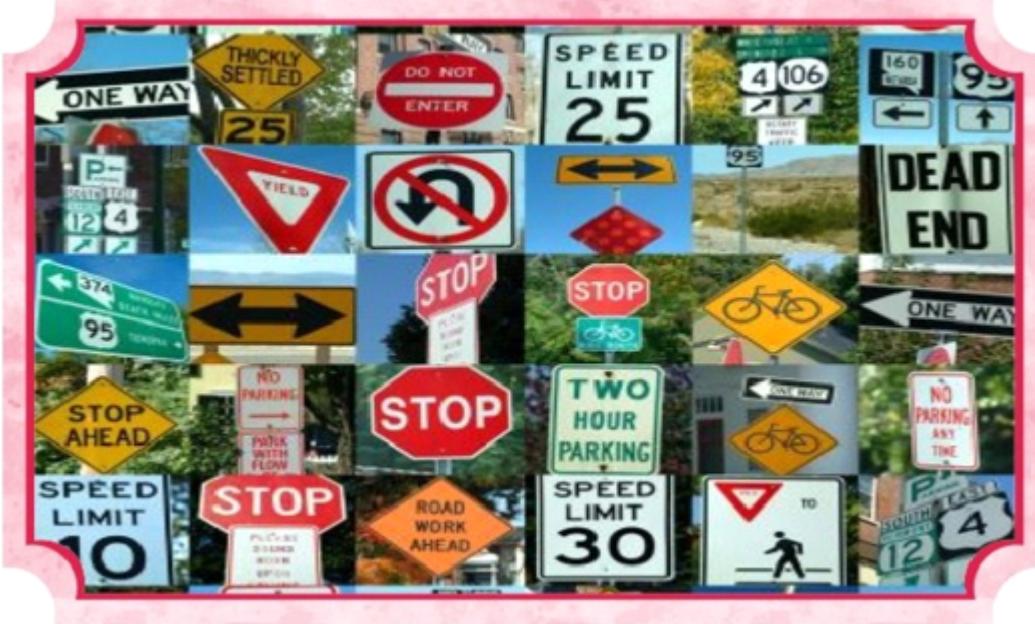


Picture of Traffic Lights

Road Signs

Road signs are traffic signs that we see on our roads that give proper direction, information and warning to drivers and other road users. Road signs also help drivers and their vehicles to coordinate and be at alert on the road.

There are many road signs which give different information to drivers, some of them are as follows:



Road Signs for Road Users

Traffic Lights

Traffic lights are special lights at a place where some roads meet. The purpose of traffic lights is to direct and control the flow of traffic by means of different colours as yellow, red and green lights.

The green light means Go, Yellow/Orange means READY to move, while RED means STOP or HALT.



Picture of Traffic Lights

Causes of Road Accidents

Road accident could occur as a result of any of the following:

1. Reckless and excessive overspeeding. Reckless driving and excessive overspeeding may lead to road accident.
2. Overtaking a vehicle at a wrong place.
3. Bad roads may cause an accident. Potholes on the road may cause accidents especially when the driver is not aware of the potholes.
4. Impatience on the part of a driver may cause accident.

5. The use of GSM handset when driving may cause an accident.
6. Reckless parking of vehicles on the roads especially at night without parking signs or indication that the vehicles are stationary.
7. Reckless night driving - most drivers drive recklessly at night. Night driving is more dangerous than day time driving. Most drivers can not see at night and passengers who engage in night driving are tired. Therefore a vehicle may run into another that may lead to accident.
8. Bad driving habits - Some drivers indulge in bad habits such as smoking and drinking while driving, talking to passengers while driving, driving with one hand and so on.
9. Poor visibility may lead to accident and hazy or foggy weather may prevent good visibility that may cause accident.
10. Failure to obey traffic rules and regulations.



Picture Showing an Accident on the Road Consequences of Disobeying Traffic Rules and Regulations

1. Disobedience to traffic rules and regulations may lead to road accidents. It is advisable that all road users must obey traffic rules and regulations.
2. Disobedience to traffic rules may cause traffic jam. That is, there may be traffic hold up for hours.
3. It may also lead to loss of life and property. The driver and passengers involved in road accident may die or lose property. The vehicle itself may be a write-off.
4. It may also cause permanent and temporary disability when people are involved in accidents.

- **How to Avoid Road Accident**

- (i) Avoid reckless and excessive speeding or over-speeding.(ii) Avoid dangerous overtaking especially at a wrong place.
 - (iii) Avoid overloading.(iv) Pay prompt attention to traffic lights and road signs.
1. Avoid long distance driving or night driving.
 2. Avoid fatigue - Avoid driving when you are tired or

stressed up.

3. Do not drink or smoke while driving.
4. Drive slowly on a bad road or where there are pot holes.
5. Always obey traffic lights.

Agencies to be Contacted when Accidents occur are

1. The Nigeria Police
2. Federal Road Safety Corps
3. Fire Brigade
4. National Emergency Management
5. Red Cross Society
6. Osun State Government

7.10 HIV AND AIDS

HIV stands for Human Immuno-deficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS is a combination of infections which occur when a person is infected with HIV.

How HIV is Spread

A person can contact HIV through four main ways:

(i) Sexual intercourse with an already infected person.

(ii) Transfusion of infected blood.

(iii) Sharing injection needles, blades and other sharp instruments with someone who is infected with HIV.

(iv) From an infected pregnant woman to her baby before, during and after delivery.

The HIV virus is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids. HIV is abundantly found in 3 major fluids - blood, semen and vaginal secretions. It can also be found in minute quantities in saliva and breast milk. HIV can enter another person when the blood, semen or vaginal secretion of an infected person comes in contact with the blood or mucous membrane of an uninfected person.

Any break in the skin, sore, or inflammation of the penis, vagina, rectum, bleeding gum, lips or mouth makes it easier for HIV to be contracted. There is also a risk of contracting HIV in unprotected oral sex, or anal intercourse if one of the partners is infected.

You cannot contact HIV by eating, sleeping in the same room, working in the same office, using the same toilet seat or sitting in the same bus with an infected person. HIV is not spread by mosquitoes and other insects.

How HIV Affects the Human Body

When the virus enters the human body, it attacks and weakens the body's immune system. Our blood contains white and red blood cells. Normally the white blood (soldier) cells fight off and kill germs which enter our body. They do this by eating up the germs and by producing chemicals called antibodies which kill them. In this way our body fights off many different germs and we stay healthy. Sometimes we have symptoms of illness when our white blood cells help us fight off the infection. We get better. But in this case, the HIV weakens this immune system by entering and finally destroying the white blood cells. As more and more white blood cells are killed, the body becomes less and less able to fight off many different germs which live outside, around and in our bodies all the time. Finally, people with AIDS die from one of a number of serious and rare diseases, which their bodies cannot resist.

HIV can also attack the brain cells and nervous system directly causing mental and co-ordination problems. People who are infected with HIV can

look and feel healthy and may not know for years that they are infected. However, they can infect other people no matter how healthy they seem. A person infected with HIV may begin to show signs of illness after six months or after many years.

Finally, so much of the immune system is destroyed that the person is attacked by all common, rare and serious infections which can eventually lead to death.

Signs and Symptoms of AIDS

These are the major and minor signs and symptoms

Major Signs and Symptoms

1. Unexplained rapid weight loss greater than 10% of body weight.
2. Persistent or recurrent fever that lasts for more than one month.
3. Chronic or intermittent diarrhea that lasts for more than one month (on and off all the time).

Minor Signs and Symptoms

1. Cough that lasts for more than one month.
2. Itchy skin rashes.
3. Cold sores all over the body.
4. Shingles.
5. Thrush in the mouth and throat.
6. Swollen glands at two or more sites (excluding the groin) for more than 3 months.
7. Persistent severe fatigue.
8. Night sweat.
9. Loss of appetite.

Is AIDS Curable?

NO! AIDS has no cure but is preventable. There is presently no vaccine for HIV infection.

How to Prevent HIV/AIDS

(i) Abstain from sex.

The surest way of avoiding sexual contact with an HIV infected person is not to have sex at all.

(ii) Be faithful to one's sexual partner

Maintain mutual fidelity between uninfected partners.

(iii) Avoid casual sex

However if you must have casual sex, use condom.

(iv) Use of Condom

Another way to reduce the risk of transmission of the HIV is to use condoms. Condoms act as barriers to prevent exchange of semen and vaginal fluids during sexual intercourse. Condom if used properly, reduces the chances of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. **Use a condom correctly each time you have sex. Do not use a condom more than once.**

(v) Avoid using or sharing unsterilised skin piercing instruments

You should not share blades, needles and syringes. Each time you take an injection at a clinic, insist on a new needle and syringe.

(vi) Receive only screened blood

Only blood that has been screened, tested and known to be free from HIV should be transfused.

1. **HIV infected women should be counseled** and allowed to make an informed choice as to whether they want to get pregnant because of the risk of transmission to the unborn child.

Is It Safe To Have Many Sexual Partners?

NO!

It is not safe for a person to have many sexual partners. He or she is at the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. The greater the number of partners you have, the greater the risks of getting infected. **Where can we get Help if we Suspect we have AIDS?**

People who are worried that they might have HIV infection or AIDS should consult a doctor. The only way to tell if someone is infected with HIV is through a blood test. You will however be advised to see a counsellor who will talk to you before taking the test.

What if the Test is Positive?

People need to understand before taking the test what a positive and a negative result may mean for their lives, and to explore whether it will help them to take it. A positive HIV antibody test has serious consequences for the person concerned and people close to him or her. For this reason, it is essential that the test is voluntary and that people are counseled before and after the test.

People Living With HIV/AIDS

For someone who is confirmed to be infected with HIV, you can improve the quality of your life by eating well and visiting the clinic regularly. Some expensive drugs which help slow down the development of AIDS are now available, but not within the reach of an average Nigerian.

People living with HIV should take care of themselves as much as they can for as long as they can. They need to be and feel as independent as possible. They need to control their own schedules, make their own decisions, and do what they want to do as much as they are able. They should develop their own exercise program and eating plan. In addition to regular visits to the doctor, many people living with HIV should work at staying healthy by eating properly, sleeping regularly, doing physical exercise, praying or meditating, or other things. Well balanced, good-tasting meals help people feel good, give them energy, and help their bodies fight illness. People living with HIV are better off if they don't take alcoholic drinks, smoke or use illegal drugs. Keeping up-to-date on new treatments and understanding what to expect from the treatments the person is taking are also important.

The society should not discriminate against people living with HIV. They require the care and support of family members and the community. The essence of this topic is to create awareness and sensitise adolescents about the reality of the dreadful disease.

1. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking in women and children is clearly both a human rights and a development issue. Human trafficking is the illegal recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or sale of human beings into all forms of forced labour and servitude, including trafficking into forced marriage.

The traffickers use different means or methods to recruit innocent children or women such as means of threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, kidnapping, fraud, deception, monetary inducement etc. All these are used to lure children and women into trafficking.

Trafficking of women and children involves forcing people especially women and girls into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or child soldiering etc. It is the sale of human

beings for the purpose of exploiting their labour.

Trafficking of children often involves exploitation of the parents' extreme poverty. Parents may sell their children to traffickers in order to pay off debts or gain income. Human trafficking is by its very nature an international crime that requires a high level of cooperation and collaboration between states if it is to be tackled or eliminated effectively.

Factors Responsible for Human Trafficking

Children and women are vulnerable to this inhuman and obnoxious trade. Many factors are responsible for this:

1. **Poverty:** Women and children are mostly victims of human trafficking. Poverty drives them into this trade. Trafficking of children often involves exploitation of the parents' extreme poverty. Parents may sell children to traffickers in order to pay off debts or gain income. Children and women from poor homes are vulnerable to human trafficking.
2. The demand for cheap labour is also responsible for human trafficking. e.g. women's labour is usually in low status work in the domestic and entertainment spheres putting them at risk.
3. **Low level of education** - People with low level of education.
4. **Lack of employment** - Many people especially children and women get involved in trafficking because of lack of jobs.
5. The demand for domestic servants or housemaids among urban families is also responsible for human trafficking.
6. Greed and excessive love for money have driven a lot of women into this trade.
7. **Ignorance** - Ignorance on the part of women and children is also responsible for human trafficking.
8. **Influence of peer group** e.g. young girls running away from home or family may lure them into human trafficking. Some children who roam the streets are easy prey to traffickers and social problems.
9. **Economic and social problems** such as prostitution, crime, stealing, armed robbery, kidnapping may lead to human trafficking.
10. Poor international border defence may lead to human trafficking.
11. Wars and natural disasters may force people to become refugees and illegal migration that may lead them into human trafficking.

Who are Trafficked?

1. Women and children are the key target group, because of their marginalization, limited economic resources and predominance in the invisible formal sector.
2. People from impoverished and low income households in rural areas and slums especially women who engaged in small farming, petty trading etc.
3. People with low level of education, a few years of formal schooling.
4. Girls that financially contribute to family up keep.
5. People who lack awareness of their legal right when exploited.

Consequences of Human Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is a professional human rights abuse and women

and children are vulnerable to this practice due to the persistent inequalities they face in status and opportunity. Some of the consequences of human trafficking include

(i) Physical Consequences

- (a) It may lead to wide spread of venereal diseases and HIV/AIDS. Ladies who engage in human trafficking stand the risk of being infected with sexually transmitted diseases which may lead to infertility or death.
- (b) Girls that engage in hawking goods on the roads and streets may be raped or knocked down by moving vehicles.
- (c) Girls education suffers in the hands of these traffickers.
- (d) It may lead to increase in prostitution.
- (e) Human trafficking can lead to death.
- (f) It has prevented a lot of people especially girls from going to school.

(ii) Psychological Consequences

- (a) The women and children who are victims of human trafficking may experience emotional and psychological trauma.
- (b) It may lead to separation of parents or divorce.

(iii) Social Consequences

- (a) It may erode our traditional family values system.
- (b) Human trafficking may lead to the growth of transnational crime and the expansion of drug trafficking.
- (c) It has given Nigerian bad image abroad especially those who engage in prostitution.
- (d) It may lead to increase in commercial sex activities.
- (e) It deprives the nation vital human resources.
- (f) It deprives children the opportunity to pursue education and to achieve their full potential in life.
- (g) It may attract crime syndicates.
- (h) It may lead to increase in the rate of illiteracy in the society.

Preventive Measures

Trafficking in people has been facilitated by porous borders and advanced communication technologies. It has become increasingly transnational in scope and highly lucrative.

1. **Public Enlightenment** - Public enlightenment is one of the measures of preventing human trafficking. There should be public awareness of the evil of the trade.
2. **Government agencies and NGOs** together with the international community should adopt a variety of strategies to combat trafficking in women and children in the following areas
 1. **Legislation** - Government should enact laws or policies to prevent trafficking, punish traffickers and the corrupt officials who facilitate the crime.
 2. **Advocacy** - Voluntary organisations should help in the area of advocacy to protect and defend the children and women from human trafficking.
 1. Control and suppression of prostitution through the legal system.
 2. Rescue and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking.
 3. Government should organise campaign programmes against

human trafficking e.g. protection for and awareness - raising among women and girls to prevent trafficking.

4. There should be employment opportunities to eradicate poverty.
5. Good home training is needed to promote family value system.
6. Girls' education should be made compulsory.
7. There is need for prevention of trafficking through the legal and criminal system by training of law enforcement officers.

Trafficking Mechanisms and Techniques

1. Women and children are generally recruited from rural areas or small towns.
2. Local Contacts - Traffickers enlist the help of local persons and villagers to identify vulnerable families.
3. Traffickers operate in an organised network having agents to make contacts with unsuspecting women and children around bus and train stations.
4. **Direct Sales:** Women and children are sold to traffickers by parents or other family members.
5. **Deceit** - Unscrupulous agents deceive parents, lure women and girls with false promises of well paid jobs in cities or marriages to rich partners.

Economic incentives to parents and arrangements which bond children and young women into sex, slavery or other exploitative forms of labour.

Kidnapping - Criminal gangs or middlemen, kidnap women and children, force them to work against their will and often sell them to brothels.

Bribes - Bribes are commonly paid to various officials or police to procure false documents, or at border crossing.

Transportation - Women and children are transported by foot, buses, pick-up vans, trains and boats.

1. Explain drug abuse.
2. Mention three forms of drug abuse.
3. List four consequences of drug abuse.
4. Mention four causes of drug abuse.
5. List four ways of discouraging drug abuse.
6. Explain drug trafficking.
7. List four reasons for drug trafficking.
8. Mention four consequences of drug trafficking.
9. What is poverty?
10. Describe 4 causes of poverty.
11. List five effects of poverty.
12. Mention three schemes of poverty alleviation programmes of federal government.
13. What is corruption?
14. Mention five causes of corruption.
15. State five consequences of corruption.
16. List four steps to check corruption.
17. What is cultism?
18. Identify five causes of cultism.
19. Mention five solutions to cultism.
20. What is illiteracy?
21. List four causes of illiteracy.
22. Mention 5 consequences of illiteracy.
23. List 5 solutions to illiteracy.

- 24. What are traffic rules and regulations?
 - 25. List all the colours on the traffic light.
 - 26. List five causes of road accidents.
- (xxvii) List three consequences of disobeying traffic rules.
 1. What is Human Trafficking?
 2. List four factors that are responsible for children and women trafficking.
 3. List three consequences of human trafficking preventive.
 4. Mention five preventive measures of human trafficking.