Abstract

The aim of this research is to point out the unanswered questions about the drug misuse in the UK. Drug misuse cannot necessary mean misusing of illegal drugs as many people may assume. Drug misuse is the overuse or underuse of any kind of drugs even those prescribed by the doctor. There is a disorder defined by the overusing of drugs prescribed by the doctor. Most of the people in the United Kingdom that misuse drugs according to research are mostly the young people between the age of 18-25 years. Most of them clearly are university and college students. There are a number of factors that are likely to lead to the misuse of drugs among the young people. Peer pressure contributes mostly among the many factors. There are also impacts of the misuse of drugs which can be so severe to the point of death. The young people need to be informed and mentored since they are the future leaders of tomorrow. Research shows that over the last ten years that has been a worldwide research on drug and alcohol misuse by university and college students. However the number in the United Kingdom has been low compared to other countries in the world. A qualitative research is used to gather information on the approximate number of students in the Universities in the United Kingdom misuse the drugs. Findings show that the most commonly misused drugs in UK are cannabis, ecstasy, alcohol, nitrous oxide and powder cocaine. Different university/college students and young people between 18-25 years have their preferences according to the group of friends and their universities. The number of university students that are likely to misuse drugs in the UK is higher than that of non-students. The number of young people who engage in night life activities is high on drug misuse than that of young people who stay indoors at night. Secondary methods of data collection are used in this study to collect information on drug misuse among students in colleges and universities and the young people. According t research there are a number of prevention and control measures that are taken to reduce the number of young people abusing drugs in the United Kingdom including primary care services, criminal justice service- which can be a little bit harsh, alcohol and drug misuse services, services for looked after children and young people and many more. Health practitioners in United Kingdom are also trained on how to access people when they come into contact with individuals who need help or are at risks. Training and providing information to adults who are living with young people can also help in reducing the finding number. Forming of community groups in the country can also help in the prevention of drug abuse in the society today. Finding indicate that there are a number of challenges that are faced by health practitioners that strive to prevent and reduce drug misuse in UK including low political prioritization and support, limited advocacy for access to substance misuse services.

Introduction

This dissertation explains the impacts of drug misuse among the white ethnic male university and college students aged 18-25 years in United Kingdom. Substance misuse and drug abuse is common among the male ethnic group in the country. Most male university and college male students are likely to overuse drugs compared to the females. There are policies that have been impacted so as to prevent the increase of drug misuse in United Kingdom (Monoghan, 2014). In recent years the number of the male students under the influence of drugs has increased. Cannabis remains the most misused substance all over the country. Mostly the most misused legal drugs are usually those sold over the counter (OTC). Most of the young male individuals in the help services have said that cannabis was the drug that they had a problem with. They were addicted. Although the number of cannabis substance users has decreased over the years it is evident that it is dangerous and easily addictive. Research shows that two thirds of the young people who are in need of help from drug misuse are male and most of them are from universities in the country. Drug misuse is usually due to a number of reasons. The most common one being peer pressure. Most of the young people especially during university nigh partying get influence into drug misuse by their peers. Others misuse drugs due to vulnerability including mental health problems, offending, self-harming and domestic abuse, and also not being in school due to financial problems in their families. Research shows that most of male students are likely to smoke or use alcohol under the influence of their friends, family and their virtual peers in social media(Er et.al, 2019). Heroine in the United Kingdom is the least abused drug while ecstasy, cocaine powder, ketamine and cannabis being the most misused. Among the male students who are likely to abuse drugs an analysis was made between the whites and the non-whites and it is clear that white male students in universities and colleges are a high risk to misuse drugs. Most these students explained that the reason for drug misuse was due to stress, peer pressure, living away from the control of their parents and guidance, freedom from the responsibility associated with employment and marriage. Drug combination among the youth is also common. Most of the times, the students combine drugs to try the new street drugs in town and to use the usual traditional drugs such as cannabis for recreational and leisure purposes. Most of the drugs that were mostly combined were ecstasy, ketamine and mephedrone. The results of researches previously carried out in the past may be influenced by the mostly students that have lived in private residential areas (Bennet & Holloway, 2011). The number of these young people decreases or increases yearly due to a number of influences both external and internal including social factors. Alcohol use has also really been misused by college male students over the years. Research shows that 26% of male students are in use of alcohol. Alcohol is the largest cause of mortality and morbidity among male students. Alcohol is associated with deaths of many male students approximated to 1400deaths. Many students are also assaulted when under the influence of drugs. Annually 50,000 people are injured due to driving when under influence of drugs. Most students in college claim to have drunk at least once in the past year. This means that they at least took 5 or more drinks in one drinking session especially for the male students. Many claim to have drunk alcohol for the sake of getting drunk. The more a student engages in alcohol drinking the more they are likely to engage in the use of other drugs including ecstasy (Chloe et.al, 2016). Binge drinking is said to reduce after college or after the first year of college depending on the individuals. Others tend to take it to a notch higher by engaging in continuous drinking habits even after college. This leads to addiction since a high alcohol content in the blood cannot be easily reduced after some years.Students in United Kingdom smoke cannabis to escape the truth of life. Cannabis gets people high and for some hours one is not able to recognize where they are, there are aftermaths of smoking or eating cannabis. Some students who smoke cannabis state that the use of cannabis makes them hungry or happy or sleepy. This shows that they are unconscious. When cannabis is mixed with alcohol people tend to become totally unconscious and unaware of the things that go on around them. Research shows that the numbers of students who have used cannabis for recreational use are 40.2% for both male and female students and out of that 30.7% of them are mal white students. Cannabis use is very addictive. It leads to killing of some of the brain neurons and thus slow thinking. Driving while smoking or after smoking cannabis doubles the risk of getting into a serious accident compared to alcohol. Cannabis can also cause acute psychotic decompensation especially when used excessively. It also increases cases of depression, anxiety, sleeplessness and restlessness (PubMed, 2011). The number of students who use ecstasy in United Kingdom according to research is 13.8% while 10.5% are male white students. Ecstasy use leads to euphoria, jaw clenching and high energy levels. When combined with other drugs like cocaine powder it leads to negative effects such as less empathy, compassion, distrust and hostility(Stewart et al, 2014). It is mostly used as a recreational drug among university students and mostly falls under the new street drug that is combined with other drugs so as to lead to an effect of being unconscious and escaping life. Research shows that ecstasy may have fewer effects than other drugs like cannabis and alcohol. However it’s more likely to cause dependency issues if used excessively. Among young people especially those who engage in nigh life activities (“rave”) ecstasy is believed to be a safe drug. The numbers of students who use cocaine powder are 14% and among them 8.8% are male white students between the ages of 18-25 in United Kingdom. Cocaine powder is sniffed mostly in parties and during clubbing. Cocaine powder causes mental disorder for those who use or misuse it. When mixed with other drugs and substances its chances of causing mental disorder also increases (Neto et al, 2016). The short term effects of the use of powder include anger, paranoid feeling, extreme sensitivity to all the six senses and decreased appetite. Long term effects of cocaine include headaches, seizures, mood problems, lung damage, and bowel decay for those who swallow the powder and loss of smell. The more students use cocaine the more their brains get used to it. People who snort cocaine are mostly motivated by the high it brings. When the addicts mind becomes used to cocaine it becomes harder to think, sleep and some end up suffering from memory loss. Addiction to cocaine powder leads to heart, stomach and lunch failures and other problems. Ketamine is another drug that is highly misused by college and university students in United Kingdom. 8.2% of students in universities misuse ketamine and among those5.9% are male white students. Ketamine is used to induce loss of consciousness. In hospitals and other medical settings it acts as an anesthetic drug. When used outside the approved setting ketamine can cause adverse effects especially mentally. Ketamine, just as ecstasy is a “club drug” and it is mostly used as a date-rape drugs in other settings. When under the influence of ketamine one tends to feel drowsy and loose the sense of touch and the surrounding. One may also feel nausea, agitated, difficulty in learning and thinking, numbness, slurred speech and increased pressure in the eyes and the brain. They are also a number of drugs that are mostly new street drugs that are tried once in a while by college students. They include mephedrone, GBL/GHB, Spice, BZP. These drugs are mostly sampled in clubs and they are rarely found. They are expensive to acquire especially among students in the universities. When used they are mostly mixed with other drugs since they are in small quantities and less likely to set off the “high” effect that is needed at that time. There are other drugs that are associated with addictive use. They include heroine, crack cocaine, methamphetamines. These are strong drugs and university students tend to avoid them. They are expensive and also rarely fund in the university like ecstasy and cannabis. University make students mostly acquire such drugs from clubs and bars through non-students who use them. Crack- cocaine has more effect compared to cocaine itself. Heroine on the other hand is extremely addictive no matter the method of administration. It has strong withdrawal symptoms which occur 24-28 hours immediately after the last dose taken. These drugs generally harm the body and the neuron system and they are better avoided.

Research questions

The research questions in this dissertation are:

* What is the impact of drugs in university students in the United Kingdom?
* Is the number of male students more than those of female bigger in the drug misuse impact?
* How can the government and the communities in United States help in curbing the adverse effect of the drug misuse?
* Between the whites and the non-whites who misuses drugs more?

Aim of the study

* To help the communities in UK identify the drugs that are mostly misused in the universities and colleges
* To help shine light on the issue of drug misuse in the UK since it has been neglected for some time now
* To help understand the reasons of drug misuse among the white make students in the universities and colleges
* To help reduce of the cases of addiction in United Kingdom in the universities and colleges

Chapter two

Literature review

As indicated in the introductions there are a number of drugs that are famous among students in the universities in United Kingdom. Research and statistics show that mostly white male students are the ones that are mostly affected by the trends of drug misuse in the universities and colleges. Most get excited since they are away from the responsibilities and marriage. Others are happy to be away from parents and the forcing to conform to the religious settings in their communities. The university students that are more likely to use drugs in their short life of university studies are th first year students. Report shows that this group of students is more than excited to join the universities and they tend to try everything there is to try. Alcohol is drunk and ecstasy pills are popped during the parties that are attended during the semesters of the academic years in college. Other students end trying these drugs during the clubbing nights. They are mostly influenced by their peers and their younger relatives who they happen to meet during their first years of college. After the first year of trying different drugs and alcohol most of the students stop or get bored with the partying life. Therefore report shows that the other students especially those in their third and fourth year drink less and indulge in fewer activities of pills popping and crack-sniffing. There is however, the other group that continues with their partying life even after college. This group mostly ends up depressed and addicted to these drugs. It is hard to stop drugs like crack-cocaine once it gets to one’s brain. Others drugs like cannabis become hard to stop when one gets used to the “high” they bring Alcoholism is rare in United Kingdom especially for those people who are freshly from the university. Heroine is also addictive but report shows that it is the less used drug in the universities and colleges of United Kingdom.

2.2: Cannabis

Cannabis is most recognized among young people in universities and also non-students. It is also known to cause acute psychosis after some years of misusing it however its relation with the impact it has on cognition is not quite clear (Vos &Bechdolf, 2020). Research shows that the use of cannabis in UK mostly peaks in the adolescent age that 18-25 years. Studying at the universities and colleges also greatly contributes in the use of cannabis. Students who use cannabis prior to their university life are more likely to use the drug heavily during their university days. The increase and high use of cannabis among these students leads to the heightened effect which include mental and physical problems in the future or during the period of abuse. There are various negative effects of cannabis that are especially seen among students. They include poor academic performance, executive and cognitive deficit, the urge to use or try other illicit drugs, increase risk to respiratory failure and problems, physical harm and driving under the influence of cannabis which leads to car accidents. Long term effects of cannabis among students can be the risk of developing psychotic symptoms and behaviors. Young adults mostly those in universities are at a higher risk of heavily using cannabis and developing psychotic behaviors because of it. Apart from the negative effects of using cannabis there are a number of positive effects that can be identified. They include relaxation, enhanced sensory effects and heightened creativity. Some students may not feel the effects of the use of cannabis immediately and this leads to them being more encouraged to use it with the mindset of it being a harmless drug. However the increase use of cannabis over time leads to the victim being dependent on the drug without their knowledge (Dempsey et.al, 2020). However when intervened earlier and stopped the effects of cannabis in male young adults in UK can be less severe. The use of cannabis by students in the United Kingdom is mostly attributed by social factors the biggest of them being peer pressure. Students tend to estimate and check the effect cannabis has on their friends and the attitude their friends have towards the drug before using it. If the drug has less or unrecognizable effect on their peers or their peers attitude towards the drug is good then most them end up using it also. Most of the time there is the assumption that using cannabis on campus is a normal thing. The estimated number of students in universities especially the first years who take cannabis the perceived peer norm is large. When one realizes that the other students and their peers on campus approve the use of cannabis then it leads to them approving also and feeling good while using it. Social factors therefore greatly contribute to the use of cannabis and other drugs like alcohol in campuses in United Kingdom.

2.2: Crack-Cocaine and Cocaine powder

Crack-cocaine in mostly used in clubs. However there are students who use it and others sell it around universities in UK. The motivation to use crack-cocaine is not looked into by many researchers. Crack I usually injected compared to cocaine powder that is sniffed. The use of crack has increased and it has to be looked into since it leads to high risk behaviors (Greer & Macdonald, 2016). There are a number of factors that have been recently associated with the use of crack including white ethnicity, increasing number of drugs used and high dependency on the drug. When one is addicted to crack and they can’t go a day or two without using they are at a higher risk of getting hepatitis B and C. There are less effects when cocaine is used moderately. Crack use has a high effect on cardiovascular and neurological systems. It is highly addictive and it has high withdrawal symptoms. Research shows that the use of crack and cocaine is due to social exclusion and obsessive drug use. Crack is expensive and when one gets addicted they tend to engage in crime and prostitution so as to be able to support their addiction. Prostitution will lead to the high risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. That is why crack users are a high risk to contact STD/STIs. Europe especially Britain is said to be a cocaine loving country. Drug laws are also reported to have improved the quality of the drug. In other instances they have been cases of drug dealers around universities in United Kingdom posing as students so as to sell cocaine to the students. In the past cocaine was said to be a drug that was mostly used by rock stars and children of rich people. Currently it is said to be a classless drug since users come from all backgrounds and most of them are white male students from colleges. Cocaine is currently not a middle class problem. Britain government has now decided to put more attention on the drug. There are looking for ways in which the reduction of cocaine use can be implemented. Compared to cocaine powder, crack brings its high faster and the magnitude of its effect is higher and takes more time than cocaine powder. Crack causes both neuropsychiatric and neurological changes. It damages the heart and the lungs. Crack market mostly targets the young people and it has grown over the years. Crack had disappeared from Britain and other countries in Europe. However crack is said to be back and this time, the vendors of crack in UK are big cartels that are said to be led by people that are supposed to implement drug law. Overall cocaine power and cocaine-crack have adverse effect that need to be looked into by the government of Britain and other countries in Europe. Communities should also work hand in hand to ensure that teenagers and university students understand the effects of using cocaine powder and crack. There should programs in United Kingdom that inform parents, guidance, teenagers and young-adults of the immense effects of cocaine which includes contracting Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

2.4: Ecstasy

Ecstasy is also known as MDMA. It is a club drug that doesn’t fall under the category of psychoactive drugs like cannabis and cocaine. Ecstasy is mostly used as a new drug in the streets and most the time students mix it with other drugs so as to achieve the expected effect. Most of male students claim that ecstasy is a harmless drug. However it has several effects if misused, including prospective memory. Prospective memory is remembering future occurrences or activities (Hefferman & Bellies, 2012). Ecstasy is mostly used as a recreational drugs and long term users of ecstasy are said to be more emphatic compared to other drug users. It increases empathy after a short term use. Ecstasy is banned in United Kingdom and the government doesn’t approve it for medical use either. The effects of ecstasy are mostly positive which include helping in reduction of alcoholism when combined with therapy. However when excessively used during therapy it could lead to an increase in psychological distress (Research News, 2016). Ecstasy causes a decline in mood and self-esteem especially when the victim is around other people. It is also considered a drug that gives people energy and psyche to dance. When used during clubbing and partying, victims are said to dance for a really long time without feeling tired. This is due to the increased production of dopamine in the brain. Ecstasy is mostly taken as a tablet or some other time as powder. When being manufactured, the manufacturer can decided to add other substances so that the effect of the drug is well felt. Some of the substances that are added to ecstasy are ketamine or benzylpiperazine. Other times the manufacturer may decide to add substances that will encourage the user to use other substances and illicit drugs. In the past ecstasy in United Kingdom was mostly a 100gm tablet but it was later reduced to 40gms. The price to obtain it also reduced, which made it easier for young adults in universities to access it. Ecstasy is mostly combined with other drugs when used by college students. This may lead to students having a low performance in class. It may also cause skipping of classes to avoid other students due to stress and low self-esteem. Apart from that ecstasy is harmless drug but it causes toxicity when used in high doses. In high doses it can cause cardiovascular system failure and seizures. Individuals who take ecstasy in high doses are said to display side effects which are almost similar to those of people who use cocaine. However it rarely causes feelings of paranoid and aggregation. Apart from the high energy level and dancing all night ecstasy is quite a chilled drug. United Kingdom banned it since it is harmful when combined with other drugs which make it inclusive to the group of harmful drugs that should not be used by students in universities.

2.4: Ketamine

Ketamine is also a recreational drug that popular among students in universities in Unite Kingdom. It is mostly used in night clubs and during night parties. When misused, ketamine can cause neurological and psychological harm to the user(Chen et al, 2020). It is highly addictive and cause chronic bladder and urinary tract problems. Ketamine in universities in UK is slowly becoming the new ecstasy. Students report that since it is cheap and easy to get they prefer it to ecstasy. Report also shows that their preference to ketamine is because of how it works. One gets high easily and fast and the duration of the “high” is only to hours and you are okay to go home. Students know that when ketamine is mixed with other drugs like alcohol, it makes becomes dangerous. Research indicated that it is difficult for one to overdose on ketamine that is why many students assume that it is a safe drug. However it is quite harmful, one gets detached from the body. The experience is known as “out of the body experience”. There are other incidences where the user is quite aware of their surrounding and they are conscious but they cannot control their body. This is popularly known as “falling into the K hole”. This experience is said to be caused by the temporary shutdown of the brain after high doses of ketamine. The brain activities are unusually slowly processed and the activities are reduced. A high dosage of ketamine is needed to achieve the same effect after the first time of using it (University of Cambridge, 2020). For this reason ketamine is slowly becoming an anti-depressant and a drug that is used on psychotic patients. The UK government have approved the drug and licensed it as an anti-depressant. However students should not get access to the drug since they are likely to use it as a recreational drug. The effects may not be instant when in small dosages but when a student uses ketamine while attending classes it could lead to failure in school and less engagement during the academic hours. Students should also be informed of the adverse effects caused by ketamine when misused to avoid occurrences of death or other unpleasant experiences.

2.5: Heroine

Heroine is a hard drug that is highly addictive. It is rarely used among students in university. However those who use are more likely to show signs of addiction to heroine and other drugs in future. Heroine is injected in the body of the victim and it gives a certain high that is highly addictive. Heroine leads to impulsive and bad decision making for individuals who use it(Fareed et.al, 2017). Heroine is an opioid drug. It is made from morphine and the color that is mostly sold to students in universities in UK is a brown powder. It is bitter in taste and most smells like vinegar but it can also be odorless. Heroine can be used in different way, it can be smoked after heating it using foil, it can be injected after being dissolved in water or it can be snorted as powder. First time users of heroine end up feeling dizzy or nausea. Students who take heroin use it to feel happy, relaxed, euphoria or sleepy. The duration heroine stays in the blood stream depends on whether one has used other types of drugs, or whether they had eaten and how much of the heroine powder they have consumed. When smoked, heroine kicks in after a few minutes and the effect only lasts for an hour. Heroine can easily be detected in urine in two or three days. However, it depends on how much was taken. Heroine can be overdosed and that has caused so many deaths in United Kingdom. When one overdoses their breathing tends to slow and they may end up in a coma, if not they end up dead. Injection of heroin into the bloodstream easily causes an overdose than any other method of using the drug. There are also risks of damaging the blood veins and developing of clots. Sharing of needles is not healthy and it can lead to contracting HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C. there are other instances where one is likely to die due to inhaling of their vomit. Heroin is likely to cause sedation which leads to prevention of coughing here one is not able to clear their throat after voting and this can lead to death since the victims cannot breathe properly. Injecting can also cause infections and damaging of veins and altering and death of blood tissues in fingers, toes and limbs; this is also known as gangrene (Frank, 2020). It is dangerous and not advisable to take heroine especially mixing it with other drugs. Heroine has been classifies as a Class A street drug which is highly addictive. People who use heroine tend to have a tolerance to it and this leads to them adding to the dosage so as to feel the same as the previous one. It is not advisable for students as it can lead to truancy and stealing so as to get money to purchase the drug. There are programs that the United Kingdom government have come up with to educate young adults on the effects of injecting, smoking or snorting heroin. Heroin is a generally hard drug and its impact on the students’ lives can completely ruin their possibility of becoming substantial people in their communities and leaders of the near future.

2.6: Nitrous oxide

Nitrogen oxide is a colorless gas used by students in clubs and arties to feel high. Nitrous oxide is mostly inhaled by discharging the gas in another object or directly into the mouth. Inhaling the gas creates euphoria and feeling of floating or excitement for some minutes. Nitrous oxide is also known as the laughing gas and it has its effect into the body of the user. When inhaled nitrous oxide causes the feeling of euphoria, numbness of the body, the victim tends to feel giddy, uncontrolled laughter; sweating and feeling unusually tired among many the effects. When large amounts are inhaled they cause heart attack, fainting or low blood pressure. The long term effects of using the laughing gas include memory loss, depletion of vitamin B12 which may lead to nerve and brain damage, ringing or buzzing of the ears, weakened immune system, disruption to the victim’s reproductive system and depression. Mixing of nitrous oxide with other drugs can lead to an increase in the heart rate of the user and putting of pressure on the heart (Alcohol and Drug Foundation, 2020). Combination of nitrous oxide with alcohol causes confusion, loss of body control, reduced concentration and feeling heavy and sluggish. They are no withdrawal symptoms of using nitrous oxide but the user is likely to feel craving of the gas.Nitrous oxide is leas used drug in United Kingdom. It is only used among students who have advanced in the type of drugs they use and they want to try out something new.

The drugs discussed above are dangerous. Each of them has some impact into the life of a university student. Since the white male student is the most affected in school there generally has to be something done about it. The programs set up should be reviewed and the volunteers in these center need to work more to ensure that every affected person both students and non-students are registered into the programs for help. Universitiesshould also come up with such programs and set up support group to help yje affected groups/ there should be training during the first year of college and university to help spread awareness among the first year students since research shows that they are the most affected. Parents and guidance should be informed about these drugs and services so as to be aware when their children are seen with such symptoms. There is no way of curbing peer pressure and the assumption that using certain drugs such as cannabis is a norm in universities. However during orientation into the school the peer students who are chosen to conduct the orientation should highlight the disadvantages and damages that drugs can cause. All students should have information on the impacts of the specific drugs that are sold in night clubs and during parties. Students should also be regularly monitored by the guidance and counseling group hired by the school. The government should make an effort to ensure the safety of the students by coming up with policies that prevent selling drugs in the country or around universities and colleges. United Kingdom research on drugs should be increased to help shed light on the matter for future purposes and for the sake of the generations to come. Using of drugs should not be a trend in the universities especially excessive toxicities to the point of going in a coma. Friends should also look out for their friends when they go to party to avoid incidences of death after using drugs and partying. Being a brother’s keeper should be a slogan during night partying in universities.

Chapter three: Methodology

This phase of the study helps the researcher to gather the needed information about the research. There are a number of steps that have to be taken so as to be able to gather the needed information about a study. This phase of the dissertation is quite significance the researcher has to have a wide knowledge on the various methods of collecting data so as to choose a suitable one from the many.

3.1: Research philosophy

This section is relevant as it gives the needed information about the process of collecting data. The research philosophy also deals with where the researcher gets their information, the nature of the study being carried and the development of the whole study. In this case we make use of the “positivism” as the research philosophy. Positivism particularly deals with concepts and ideas that are true and real. The researcher makes use of previous research and data that is mostly hypothetical. This information is used to analyze and give conclusions about the proposed research. Remedial study approach is also used in this dissertation.

A value free approach to a research is considered by many researchers a difficult way to get information and develop it. This is because the researcher has to set aside their beliefs and values and come up with a biased free research. This proves to be quite difficult since the researcher has to understand the concept at hand and make use of it to give their conclusion. The research approach is also difficult since the research is likely to gain something from the research. It has to be conducted in a bias-free approach. The results should be accurately analyzed and the experiments should be carefully analyzed. When coming up with the interpretation of the research the researcher should be careful not be come up with biased interpretations. Positivists believe that for such an approach on conducting researches to be successful the research should strive to not include their beliefs or values. Value free approach is believed to be the scientific method of coming up with accurate findings. This type of approach is significant since the researcher is conducting a research that helps come up with societal facts and concepts. The facts are out there and the researchers work is to realize and uncover them to the world or the appropriate audience. The societal principles that are discovered in this case can help the government take care of its citizens. The researcher needs to observe certain occurrences so as to interpret the social truths to society. The researcher can also uncover the value of good in the society today and the order that is to be followed through implementation of the societal principles. Value free approach can also be identified and objectives since they bring to light the object of law and how the society should generally work. Therefore to come up with a value free approach the researcher has to detach themselves from their values and believes so as to come up with results that are unbiased.

Positivism is connected to natural science. It has been in use over the yers with positivists stating that observation cannot be repeated. New ideas that researcher come up with are easily blown over. Ideas that were observed in the past are used in positivism and stated as facts. Positivists believe that reality should and cannot be changed. Reality in this approach is believed to be stable. It can only be discussed and analyzed from and objective point of view without changing the concept being analyzed by the researcher. However, positivism has been arguably reconsidered on by several authors who try to change it in debated. It has severally be considered as unfit for analyzing conclusions and results that are observed. In a number of settings, positivism has caused inconsistency in results of analyses that are to be labeled a reality. These results were from information systems. In positivisms, information systems are considered a social science rather than a physical science. After the inconsistency of the results of these information systems positivism was considered inappropriate. There are some realities which were considered immeasurable due to the inappropriateness of the positivism paradigm. These realities have however, in the past years gone unsearched by researchers.

3.2: Research approach

Qualitative research approach has been used in this dissertation. Inductive approach has also been used. In this case the researcher began by collecting the relevant data about their topic of interest. Once there is enough data that the researcher is satisfied with, the researcher takes time from data collection to get a perfect view of the data that has been collected. Later on the researcher comes up with a theory that explains the noted patterns in the data that had been collected. When a researcher uses the inductive approach to collect data hey first start with a set of data and then advance to a larger set of data after they have understand the patterns of the latter(Scientific Inquiry in Social Work,2020). This approach has been used in this dissertation has it helps the researcher focus on specific observations and come up with relevant concepts. The researcher moves from data to concepts in this approach.

A Qualitative research technique helps the researcher to understand how people experience the world. There are a number of qualitative methods that can be used to collect information about the impacts of drug misuse on young adults in United Kingdom’s universities and colleges. These include observation, interviews, focus groups, surveys and secondary research.

Observation

This is a data collection method, through which the researcher collects information about the concept or the phenomena by observing as it occurs. The researcher mainly focuses their observation on human behavior after taking the identified drugs. The researcher can also decide to observe the verbal and non-verbal expressions of the targeted population. When making the conclusions of the observation the researcher should differentiate the observations they made and the observations that were taken from other people. This is also known as making observations from the outsider or the insider’s point of view.

Interviews

Interviews are a method of data collection that requires the researcher to collect information from a small group of people on a broad topic. There are two types of interviews, including structured and unstructured interviews. Structured interviews have a list of questions that the interview comes up with that are to be asked to the interviewee. The questions are grouped in subject matters that are to be discussed. Unstructured interview questions are from different subject matters and there are no multiple choices, the interviewee can answer however they see fit. In case interviews cannot be carried out face to face the interview can choose to do them through a phone call or video conferencing.

Focus groups

Focus groups are a common way of collecting data. They are well known for collecting health data. A group of 6-10 people are gathered o chosen by the researcher and they are probed about their point of view about a particular concept or trends that are followed in a particular country. This approach is set and designed in such a way that the chosen group of people carries out a conversation without restriction that is able to generate the needed data and information.

Surveys

Survey data is also defined as the data from a group of people who took a survey. This survey is given to a specific group of people whose opinion about something is needed in the research. They are a number of methods that are used to conduct surveys so as to get the appropriate data. While conducting survey researchers usually prefer using a number of methods such as online survey, telephonic survey, and face to face survey. The medium used to collect the survey data chooses the number of people are to be reached out to. There are two factors of collecting survey data including, how information will reach the correspondent-whether online or offline- and how this information is to be communicated to the targeted group.