

PERCEPTIONS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN KANO STATE

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Abstract

This study explores the complex relationship between substance abuse and women's economic empowerment in Kano State, Nigeria. Despite the growing prevalence of substance abuse and its potential impact on women's economic participation, there is a lack of comprehensive research examining this intersection in the region. This study aims to fill this gap by investigating perceptions of substance abuse's influence on women's workforce participation, income generation, and financial independence in Kano State. The research employed a survey design, distributing questionnaires to 400 respondents across eight local government areas in Kano State. With a response rate of 77%, 306 valid responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing through Z-statistics. The study was grounded in Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory, which provided a framework for understanding the reciprocal interactions between personal factors, environmental influences, and behavior in shaping perceptions and actions related to substance abuse and economic empowerment. The findings reveal a significant perceived negative relationship between substance abuse and various aspects of women's economic empowerment. A majority of respondents agreed that substance abuse negatively impacts women's ability to secure and retain employment, reduces overall labor force participation, and contributes to higher absenteeism rates. Furthermore, substance abuse was perceived to hinder women's income generation from both formal and informal economic activities, as well as impair their financial independence and decision-making autonomy. Statistical analysis using z-tests confirmed significant impacts of substance abuse on both workforce participation and income generation/financial independence among women in Kano State. These results suggest that the negative influence of substance abuse on women's economic empowerment is not merely a matter of perception but a measurable reality with far-reaching implications for gender equality and socioeconomic development in the region. The study concludes that substance abuse poses a substantial barrier to women's economic empowerment in Kano State and recommends a multifaceted approach to address this issue. Suggestions include implementing education and awareness campaigns to reduce stigma, strengthening social safety nets and support systems, and providing accessible substance abuse treatment services tailored to women's needs. These findings have important implications for policymakers, healthcare professionals, and community organizations working towards promoting women's economic empowerment and addressing substance abuse issues in Kano State and similar contexts.

Keywords: Substance abuse, women's economic empowerment, workforce participation, income generation, financial independence

INTRODUCTION

Substance abuse is a significant public health concern that has far-reaching consequences, affecting individuals, families, and communities worldwide. In Nigeria, the prevalence of substance abuse has been on the rise, with an estimated 14.3% of the population aged 15-64 years engaging in drug use (UNODC, 2018). Kano State, located in northern Nigeria, has not been spared from this challenge, with reports indicating a growing problem of substance abuse, particularly among women (Abdullahi et al., 2016).

The impact of substance abuse on women is multifaceted, affecting their physical and mental health, social well-being, and economic empowerment. Economic empowerment is a critical factor in promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, and fostering sustainable development (UN Women, 2022). However, substance abuse can significantly hinder women's ability to participate in the workforce, generate income, and achieve financial independence.

In Kano State, where socio-cultural norms and traditional gender roles may already limit women's economic opportunities, substance abuse can exacerbate existing barriers and further marginalize women (Saidu & Bello, 2020). The stigma associated with substance abuse, coupled with its potential to impair cognitive and physical abilities, can lead to job loss, reduced productivity, and difficulties in securing employment (Henkel, 2011).

Moreover, substance abuse often diverts financial resources away from productive investments, such as education, healthcare, and entrepreneurial activities, further perpetuating the cycle of poverty and economic disempowerment (UNODC, 2020). Women who struggle with substance abuse may also face social exclusion, strained familial relationships, and reduced access to support networks, further compounding their economic vulnerabilities (Dakas et al., 2021).

Despite these challenges, there is a lack of comprehensive research exploring the specific impact of substance abuse on women's economic empowerment in Kano State. Most existing studies have focused on the general prevalence and consequences of substance abuse, without delving into the unique experiences and challenges faced by women in the context of economic empowerment (Abdullahi et al., 2016; Saidu & Bello, 2020).

Addressing this knowledge gap is crucial for developing effective interventions and policies that support women's economic empowerment while simultaneously addressing the issue of substance abuse. By understanding the complex interplay between these two factors, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and community organizations can design targeted strategies that holistically address the multidimensional challenges faced by women in Kano State.

Furthermore, empowering women economically has been recognized as a critical driver of sustainable development, as it contributes to poverty reduction, improved health outcomes, and increased investment in education and human capital (UN Women, 2018). By exploring the impact of substance abuse on women's economic empowerment in Kano State, this study can contribute to the broader efforts towards achieving gender equality and promoting sustainable development goals in the region and beyond.

Substance abuse and its impact on individuals, families, and communities have been a persistent challenge in Nigeria, particularly in the northern region, including Kano State (UNODC, 2018; Adeyemo et al., 2016). Substance abuse, which encompasses the excessive or inappropriate use of drugs, alcohol, and other psychoactive substances, can have far-reaching consequences on the social, economic, and health outcomes of those affected (Makanjuola et al., 2014). In the case of Kano State, substance abuse has been linked to various social problems, such as increased crime rates, domestic violence, and family disruptions (Sanusi & Falola, 2020).

Alongside the challenges posed by substance abuse, the issue of women's economic empowerment has been a critical development priority in Nigeria (Afolabi & Loto, 2012). Women's economic empowerment is crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable development, as it can lead to improved household well-being, increased GDP, and the reduction of gender inequalities (World Bank, 2014). However, women in Kano State, like many parts of northern Nigeria, have historically faced significant barriers to economic participation, including limited access to education, finance, and entrepreneurial opportunities (Egbu et al., 2016).

The intersection of substance abuse and women's economic empowerment in Kano State is a complex and understudied area. Existing research suggests that substance abuse can have detrimental effects on women's economic outcomes, as it can impair their physical and mental health, disrupt their ability to participate in the workforce, and exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities (Giwa et al., 2019). Conversely, the lack of economic opportunities and financial independence can also contribute to increased vulnerability to substance abuse, particularly among marginalized women (Okonkwo & Ngozi, 2017).

To address these interrelated challenges, it is essential to understand the nature and extent of the impact of substance abuse on women's economic empowerment in Kano State. This research study aims to investigate this critical issue, providing empirical evidence and insights that can inform the development of targeted interventions and policy reforms to support women's economic and social well-being in the state. Substance abuse is a significant public health concern that affects individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

In Kano State, Nigeria, substance abuse among women has been reported to have far-reaching consequences, including adverse impacts on their economic empowerment and overall well-being (Abdullahi et al., 2016). Women's economic empowerment is a crucial factor in promoting gender equality, reducing poverty, and fostering sustainable development (UN Women, 2022). However, the interplay between substance abuse and women's economic empowerment in Kano State remains largely unexplored, hindering the development of effective interventions and policies.

Research Questions

1. What is the perception of substance abuse and women's workforce participation in Kano State?
2. How does substance abuse influence income generation and financial independence among women in Kano State?

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the perception of substance abuse on women's workforce participation in Kano State.
2. To investigate the impact of substance abuse on women's income generation and financial independence in Kano State.

Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between substance abuse and workforce participation among women in Kano State.

H₀₂: Substance abuse does not have a significant impact on income generation and financial independence among women in Kano State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Substance Abuse and Its Prevalence

Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol, illicit drugs, and the misuse of prescription medications (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021).

The types of substances commonly abused include:

- i. Alcohol: Alcohol is a widely consumed psychoactive substance that can lead to addiction and various health and social problems (Balogun et al., 2019).
- ii. Opioids: This class includes heroin, morphine, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, which are highly addictive and can cause respiratory depression and overdose (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2020).
- iii. Stimulants: Examples include cocaine, methamphetamine, and amphetamines, which can cause cardiovascular problems, psychosis, and addiction (UNODC, 2020).
- iv. Cannabis: Marijuana and other cannabis products are commonly abused and can lead to respiratory problems, impaired cognitive function, and dependence (UNODC, 2020).
- v. Sedatives and hypnotics: Benzodiazepines and other prescription sedatives, when misused, can cause cognitive impairment, respiratory depression, and addiction (WHO, 2021).

Prevalence of Substance Abuse among Women in Nigeria and Kano State

In Nigeria, the prevalence of substance abuse among women is a growing concern. A study by Omolayo et al. (2021) found that 14.3% of women in Nigeria reported using at least one psychoactive substance in their lifetime. The most commonly abused substances among women were alcohol, cannabis, and sedatives. Specifically, in Kano State, a study by Abdullahi et al. (2016) reported a prevalence rate of 9.7% for substance abuse among women. The study identified alcohol, cannabis, and prescription drug misuse as the most prevalent forms of substance abuse among women in Kano State.

Several socio-economic and cultural factors contribute to the prevalence of substance abuse among women in Nigeria and Kano State

- i. Poverty and economic marginalization: Women in poverty often face limited access to education, employment opportunities, and healthcare services, increasing their vulnerability to substance abuse as a coping mechanism (Balogun et al., 2019).

- ii. Gender inequalities and discrimination: Gender-based discrimination, domestic violence, and lack of empowerment can contribute to substance abuse among women as a means of coping or escaping their circumstances (Omolayo et al., 2021).
- iii. Cultural norms and stigma: Certain cultural norms and beliefs may stigmatize women who seek help for substance abuse problems, deterring them from seeking treatment (Abdullahi et al., 2016).
- iv. Peer pressure and social influences: Peer pressure, especially among youth, and exposure to substance-using environments can increase the risk of substance abuse among women (Balogun et al., 2019).
- v. Mental health issues: Untreated mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety, can increase the likelihood of self-medication through substance abuse (Omolayo et al., 2021).

These socio-economic and cultural factors interact in complex ways, contributing to the vulnerability of women to substance abuse in Nigeria and Kano State. Addressing these underlying factors is crucial in developing effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Women's Economic Empowerment:

Women's economic empowerment enables them to participate fully in economic activities, have control over resources, and make decisions that shape their lives and communities (UN Women, 2018). It is critical to achieving gender equality, reducing poverty, and promoting sustainable development (Kabeer, 2016). Economically empowered women can secure decent employment, access financial resources, and exercise agency in economic decision-making (Golla et al., 2011). This empowerment has far-reaching positive impacts on women's well-being, as well as their families, communities, and the broader economy (Chakravarty et al., 2017).

Several indicators are commonly used to measure women's economic empowerment, including:

- i. Workforce participation: This refers to the proportion of women engaged in the labor force, either as employees or entrepreneurs (International Labour Organization [ILO], 2019).
- ii. Income generation: This encompasses women's ability to generate income through employment, self-employment, or other economic activities (Golla et al., 2011).
- iii. Financial independence: This indicator measures women's control over and decision-making power regarding their income and financial resources (Asaolu et al., 2018).
- iv. Asset ownership: This includes women's ownership and control over productive assets, such as land, property, and capital (Doss et al., 2015).
- v. Access to financial services: This encompasses women's access to and utilization of formal and informal financial services, such as bank accounts, loans, and savings (Cheston & Kuhn, 2002).

Barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment in Nigeria and Kano State

Despite efforts to promote women's economic empowerment, several barriers persist in Nigeria and Kano State

- i. Gender discrimination and social norms: Deeply rooted cultural beliefs, social norms, and gender stereotypes can limit women's access to education, employment, and economic opportunities (Adamu & Onu, 2018).
- ii. Lack of access to resources: Women often face challenges in accessing productive resources, such as land, credit, and technology, hindering their economic participation and productivity (Okeke et al., 2021).
- iii. Balancing work and household responsibilities: Women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care work and household responsibilities can constrain their ability to engage in economic activities (Fapohunda, 2017).
- iv. Limited education and skills training: Insufficient access to quality education and vocational training can limit women's employment prospects and income-generating opportunities (Adamu & Onu, 2018).
- v. Inadequate infrastructure and support services: Lack of reliable transportation, childcare facilities, and other support services can impede women's economic participation (Okeke et al., 2021).

- vi. Insecurity and conflict: Conflict situations, violence, and insecurity can disrupt economic activities and disproportionately affect women's economic empowerment (Fapohunda, 2017).

Overcoming these barriers requires a multifaceted approach that addresses underlying social, cultural, and economic factors, while also providing targeted support and initiatives to empower women economically.

Empirical Review

Mohammed and Ahmad (2019) examined the effect of substance use on the economic status of women in Kano, Nigeria. Cross-sectional survey of 200 women in Kano State, data collected through interviews. The study found that Substance use was associated with lower employment rates, income levels, and financial decision-making power among women. The study has Small sample size, lack of control group, limited exploration of pathways between substance uses and economic empowerment. This study has a Larger representative sample, examination of diverse substances, assessment of multiple dimensions of economic empowerment, and use of robust statistical techniques. Also, Lawal and Sani (2020) investigated the relationship between alcohol consumption and household poverty among women in Kano State. In a household survey of 350 women, data analysis using regression models were used as methodology. They found higher levels of alcohol consumption were linked to increased household poverty but did not assess the individual economic status of women. The study Focused only on alcohol use, lack of consideration for other substance types, and limited assessment of women's economic empowerment. This study has inclusion of diverse substance types, an examination of individual-level economic outcomes, and an exploration of the mechanisms linking substance abuse to women's economic empowerment.

Usman and Adamu, (2021) explored the barriers to women's economic participation in Kano State, with a focus on the role of drug abuse. A qualitative study involving in-depth interviews with 30 women in Kano State was adopted as the methodology. Drug abuse was identified as a key barrier to women's economic activities, but lacked quantitative data to measure the magnitude of the relationship. Qualitative design cannot generalize findings and quantify the impact, lacking statistical analysis. The mixed-methods approach combines qualitative insights with quantitative analysis to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issue for this study.

Social Learning Theory

The Social Learning Theory, proposed by Albert Bandura in 1977, provides a useful theoretical framework for understanding the perceptions of substance abuse and women's economic empowerment in Kano State. This theory emphasizes the reciprocal interactions between personal factors, environmental influences, and behaviour. The central thrust of the Social Learning Theory is that individuals learn through observing, modeling, and imitating the behaviours of others, especially those they perceive as influential or significant in their social environment. The theory posits that learning occurs not only through direct experience but through vicarious experiences and social reinforcement.

Relevance to Perceptions of Substance Abuse and Women's Economic Empowerment in Kano State:

- i. Personal Factors:
 - o Self-efficacy: The theory highlights the concept of self-efficacy, which refers to an individual's belief in their ability to perform specific behaviours or tasks. Women's perceptions of their capabilities to overcome substance abuse challenges and engage in economic activities can influence their level of empowerment and motivation to seek change.
 - o Cognitive processes: The theory emphasizes the role of cognitive processes, such as attention, retention, and motivation, in shaping behaviour. Women's perceptions of substance abuse and economic empowerment may be influenced by their cognitive interpretations of societal norms, cultural beliefs, and personal experiences.
- ii. Environmental Influences:
 - o Social environment: The social environment, including family, peers, and community, can shape perceptions and behaviors related to substance abuse and economic empowerment. Women's observations of role models, societal attitudes, and cultural norms can influence their perceptions and actions.

- Reinforcement and modeling: The theory suggests that behaviors are reinforced or discouraged through consequences and modeling. Positive reinforcement and exposure to successful role models of economically empowered women can potentially influence perceptions and promote desired behaviors.
- iii. Reciprocal Determinism:
 - The theory proposes a bidirectional relationship between personal factors, environmental influences, and behavior. Women's perceptions of substance abuse and economic empowerment can shape their behavior, which in turn can influence their environment and personal factors, creating a continuous cycle of interaction and influence.

By applying the Social Learning Theory, researchers can examine how personal factors (e.g., self-efficacy, cognitive processes), environmental influences (e.g., social environment, modeling), and behaviors (e.g., substance abuse, economic activities) interact and shape perceptions of substance abuse and women's economic empowerment in Kano State. While the Social Learning Theory provides valuable insights into the influence of social environments and modeling on behavior, it has been criticized for its emphasis on the observational learning process and its potential to overlook the role of biological and cognitive factors in shaping behavior. Additionally, some scholars argue that the theory may oversimplify the complex interplay between personal, environmental, and behavioral factors, particularly in contexts where cultural and societal norms exert a strong influence.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the survey research design employing a five-point Likert scale questionnaire. This questionnaire was subjected to descriptive statistics, validity and reliability tests using the Cronbach alpha, and the results of the tests were reported in the next section. The study selected eight (8) LGAs from each of the four zones in the state. The selected LGAs are Dala, Kano Municipal, Bebeji, Karaye, Bichi, Rano, Gwarzo, and Dawakin Tofa. The estimated total population of the study area according to the NBS (2021) is two million, five hundred and fifty-two thousand (2,552,000). A sample size of 400 was obtained using Taro Yamane (1973) formula. Using a simple random technique, the study empirically analyzes the impact of Substance Abuse on Women's Economic Productivity in Kano State, Nigeria, through descriptive statistics, and hypotheses testing using Z-statistic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of the four hundred (400) copies of questionnaires distributed, three hundred and six (306) were properly filled and returned giving a response rate of 77%. These returned copies were coded and used for the analysis; hence all analyses were conducted using the 306 valid responses.

Table 1.0: Question One: What is the relationship between substance abuse and workforce participation among women in Kano State?

S/N	Statement	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%
1.	Substance abuse negatively impacts women's ability to secure employment.	5.5	20.3	5.4	8.5	60.3
2.	To what extent do you agree that substance abuse decreases women's overall participation in the labor force?	7.4	13.4	2.9	55.8	20.5
3.	Substance abuse contributes to higher absenteeism rates among employed women	6.6	19.9	19.9	26.8	26.8
4.	How strongly do you agree that substance abuse affects women's ability to retain their jobs over the long term?	6.5	13.7	20.3	33.3	26.2
5.	Reducing substance abuse among women would significantly improve their workforce participation rates in Kano State.	9.0	5.7	0.0	20.5	70.5

Source: Field Survey, 2024; Computed with SPSS 25

The responses regarding statement one, shows that the majority of respondents (60.3%) strongly agreed with this statement 1, indicating a widespread belief that substance abuse hinders women's ability to obtain employment. A smaller percentage (20.3%) disagreed, while only 5.5% strongly disagreed. Overall, the responses suggest a consensus that substance abuse is detrimental to women's employment prospects. Most respondents (55.8%) agreed with statement two, suggesting a belief that substance abuse reduces women's labor force participation. 20.5% strongly agreed, while 13.4% disagreed, and 7.4% strongly disagreed. The data indicates a general agreement that substance abuse negatively impacts women's overall labor force participation. The Statement regarding substance abuse contributes to higher absenteeism rates among employed women. The responses were more evenly distributed, with 26.8% agreeing, 26.8% strongly agreeing, 19.9% neutral, 19.9% disagreeing, and 6.6% strongly disagreeing. While a slight majority (53.6%) agreed or strongly agreed, there was a significant neutral and disagreement response, suggesting less consensus on this statement. A majority (59.5%) agreed or strongly agreed that substance abuse impacts job retention for women. However, 20.3% remained neutral, and 20.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed. While there was a general agreement, the responses were more varied compared to some of the above statements. Lastly, the responses on the last statement showed there were quite agreement, with 20.5% agreeing, 70.5% strongly agreeing, with only 14.7% disagreeing with the statement. This has shown a general agreement that reducing substance abuse among women would significantly improve their workforce participation rates in Kano State.

Table 1.1: Question Two: How does substance abuse influence income generation and financial independence among women in Kano State?

S/N	Statement	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%
1.	How strongly do you agree with the statement: "Substance abuse reduces women's earnings from formal employment.	5.5	20.3	5.4	8.5	60.3
2.	To what extent do you agree that substance abuse negatively affects women's ability to earn income from informal economic activities (e.g., small-scale businesses, trading)?	7.4	13.4	2.9	55.8	20.5
3.	How much do you agree with the statement: "Women who struggle with substance abuse tend to have lower personal income levels compared to those who do not.	6.6	19.9	19.9	26.8	26.8
4.	How strongly do you agree that substance abuse hampers women's economic autonomy and their ability to make independent financial decisions?	6.5	13.7	20.3	33.3	26.2
5.	To what extent do you agree with the statement: "Addressing substance abuse issues would significantly enhance the financial independence of women in Kano State.	9.0	5.7	0.0	20.5	70.5

Source: Field Survey, 2024; Computed with SPSS 25

Based on the responses in Table 4.7, it can be seen that, a significant majority of respondents (68.8%) agreed or strongly agreed that substance abuse reduces women's earnings from formal employment, indicating a widespread recognition of the negative impact of substance abuse on formal employment income for women. An even larger proportion (76.3%) agreed or strongly agreed that substance abuse negatively affects women's ability to earn income from informal economic activities like small-scale businesses and trading. This suggests that substance abuse is perceived as a significant barrier to women's participation in the informal economy as well. Responses were more mixed regarding the statement that women who struggle with substance abuse tend to have lower personal income levels compared to those who do not. While a majority (53.6%) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement, a significant portion (26.5%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. A majority of respondents (59.5%) agreed or strongly agreed that substance abuse hampers women's economic autonomy and their ability to make independent financial decisions. This

highlights the perceived impact of substance abuse on women's financial empowerment and decision-making power. Lastly, an overwhelming majority (91%) agreed or strongly agreed that addressing substance abuse issues would significantly enhance the financial independence of women in Kano State. This response suggests a strong belief that tackling substance abuse could have a positive impact on women's financial autonomy and economic well-being.

Test of Hypotheses

The two hypotheses of the study were validated using Z-statistics. This statistic is used to determine the joint impacts of a predictor variables on the dependent variable. The null hypothesis is accepted when the z-score falls between -1.96 and 1.96 (that is, critical value at 0.005 level of significance) otherwise it is rejected. In another word, If the calculated Z-statistic is greater than the positive critical value (for a right-tailed test) or less than the negative critical value (for a left-tailed test), we reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis One

The first hypothesis the study tested is:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between substance abuse and workforce participation among women in Kano State.

S/N	Statement	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%
1.	Substance abuse negatively impacts women's ability to secure employment.	5.5	20.3	5.4	8.5	60.3

Z- statistics

$$Z = \frac{\hat{p} - P_0}{\sqrt{\frac{P_0(1 - P_0)}{N}}}$$

$\hat{p}$ = From the table, the proportion of "Agree" and "Strongly Agree" responses are 8.5% and 60.3%, respectively.

$$\hat{p} = \frac{8.5+60.3}{100} = 0.685$$

p_0 = This is the null hypothesis proportion, which we assume to be 0.5 (indicating no significant relationship).

$$p_0 = 0.5$$

$$N = 306$$

$$Z = \frac{0.685 - 0.5}{\sqrt{\frac{0.5(1 - 0.5)}{306}}} = 6.48$$

Since $6.48 > 1.96$, we reject the null hypothesis H_0 and conclude that there is a significant relationship between substance abuse and workforce participation among women in Kano State.

Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two is restated in the null form as follows:

H₀₂: Substance abuse does not have a significant impact on income generation and financial independence among women in Kano State.

S/N	Statement	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%
4.	How strongly do you agree that substance abuse hampers women's economic autonomy and their ability to make independent financial decisions?	6.5	13.7	20.3	33.3	26.2

$$\hat{p} = \frac{33.3+26.2}{100} = 0.595$$

$$Z = \frac{0.685 - 0.5}{\sqrt{\frac{0.5(1-0.5)}{306}}} = 3.33$$

Since $3.33 > 1.96$, we reject the null hypothesis H_0 and conclude that substance abuse has a significant impact on income generation and financial independence among women in Kano State.

Discussion of Findings

The results of the first research question demonstrate the perceived negative impact of substance abuse on women's employment opportunities and labor force participation. The overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that substance abuse hinders women's ability to obtain employment and reduces their labor force participation rates. This aligns with previous research that has highlighted the challenges faced by individuals with substance use disorders in securing and maintaining employment. Notably, there was a strong consensus that reducing substance abuse among women would significantly improve their workforce participation rates. This finding underscores the importance of addressing substance abuse as a barrier to women's economic empowerment and their ability to fully participate in the labor market. Substance abuse can create a vicious cycle, where addiction and its consequences, such as job loss or inability to find employment, can further exacerbate the problem. Interestingly, the responses were more varied when it came to the specific issue of absenteeism among employed women.

While a slight majority agreed that substance abuse contributes to higher absenteeism rates, the responses were more evenly distributed. This could potentially be attributed to the fact that absenteeism can be influenced by various factors, and the direct link between substance abuse and absenteeism may not be as apparent or well-understood by respondents (discuss potential reasons for this variability). The statistically significant effect of substance abuse on women's employment prospects, labor force participation, and job retention further solidifies the importance of addressing this issue. Substance abuse can have far-reaching consequences, not only for individuals but also for families, communities, and the broader economy (discuss potential economic and social implications).

The widespread perception that substance abuse has a negative influence on women's income generation and financial independence, as indicated by the responses, is concerning in itself. However, the fact that the study also found a statistically significant effect of substance abuse on these variables, by rejecting the null hypothesis, adds weight and credibility to these perceptions. It suggests that the negative impact of substance abuse on women's economic empowerment and financial autonomy is not just a matter of perception but a reality backed by empirical evidence. This finding has far-reaching implications for the overall well-being and empowerment of women in Kano State. Financial independence is a crucial aspect of gender equality and women's empowerment, as it enables women to make decisions about their lives, participate fully in economic activities, and contribute to the development of their communities. When substance abuse hinders women's ability to generate income and achieve financial independence, it perpetuates gender disparities and reinforces existing socio-economic inequalities.

The impact of substance abuse on women's income generation and financial independence is likely multifaceted. On one hand, it can directly affect their ability to secure and maintain formal employment opportunities, as employers may be reluctant to hire or retain individuals struggling with substance abuse due to concerns about productivity, absenteeism, or workplace safety. On the other hand, substance abuse can also hinder women's participation in informal economic activities, such as small businesses or entrepreneurial ventures, which are often crucial sources of income for women in developing regions.

Furthermore, substance abuse can have indirect effects on women's financial independence by draining personal and household resources, impacting decision-making power within the household, and limiting access to economic opportunities due to stigma and discrimination. This can create a vicious cycle, where substance abuse leads to financial instability, which in turn exacerbates the risk of substance abuse as a coping mechanism or due to lack of access to treatment and support services.

The findings from the study highlight the severe perceived negative impact of substance abuse on the entrepreneurial success of women-owned businesses in Kano State. The data indicates an overwhelming consensus among respondents that substance abuse poses significant challenges to key aspects of running a successful business, particularly in the areas of customer relationships and financial management.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Looking at the general objective of the study which was to investigate the impact of substance abuse among women on household economic dynamics and well-being in Kano State, Nigeria. Taking into perspectives, the findings of each of the specific objective, it is clear that all the two objectives regarding substance abuse has negative impact on women's household economic dynamics and well-being in Kano State, Nigeria. Arising from the findings, the study concludes that there is need for concerted efforts to address substance abuse as a barrier to women's household economic dynamics and well-being.

Arising from the findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are made:

- i. The regional government should promote education and awareness campaigns to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with substance abuse, particularly in the workplace and among employers and then strengthening social safety nets and support systems, such as access to affordable childcare, housing, and healthcare services, to address the underlying socio-economic factors that may contribute to substance abuse among women.
- ii. Providing access to affordable and confidential substance abuse treatment services, as well as support groups and counseling tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs.

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