Commercial Motorcycle Operators and use of Performance Enhancing Substances in Sokoto Metropolis, Nigeria

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Abstract-The key objective of this study was to assess the perceptions of commercial motorcycle operators (CMOs) on the use of work performance enhancing substance (PES) and its perceived socio-economic and health consequences among the motorcyclists in Sokoto metropolis. This study utilized crosssectional survey and cluster sampling technique to draw 400 samples; however, only 364 questionnaires were properly filled and therefore used for further analysis using SPSS software. Concerning why the operators used PES, the result of the study shows a mean ranged between 3.2 and 3.7 and standard deviation (SD) ranged between 0.3 and 0.8; indicating agreement by majority of the respondents concerning the questions. Specifically, most respondents agree that PES make them work for longer hours (3.7 & 0.3), protect them from cold (3.2 & 0.3), keep them awake (3.4 & 0.6), increase their energy at work (3.3 & 0.8), and protect them from hunger (3.5 & 0.3). Additionally, concerning the commonly used PES among CMOs, the result of this study indicates a mean range between 3.2 and 3.8, indicating agreement by the majority of the respondents concerning the questions. Specifically, most respondents agree that the commonly used PES are Tramol (3.8 & 0.6), Cigarette and Arab tea (3.5 & 4.0), Kolanut and Marijuana (3.4 & 0.5), and Cough syrup (3.2 & 0.3) respectively. Moreover, concerning the perceived consequences of PES, the result of this study indicates a mean range between 3.5 and 3.1, indicating agreement by the majority of respondents regarding the questions. Precisely, most respondents agreed the socio-economic and health consequences of PES include persistent headache (3.5 and 0.3), road traffic accident and difficulty in sleep (3.4 and 0.3), problems with law enforcement agents, stress and depression (3.2 and 0.2), and inability to cater for the family adequately (3.1 and 0.2). Consequently, the study recommends that youth should be actively involved in the enlightenment campaign on the dangers of PES use. Additionally, government should enforce laws so that drugs that are psychoactive are not sold to people without expert's prescriptions. Finally, PES such as Tramol, Arab tea, Marijuana, Cigarette and certain Cough syrups should be levied heavily so that the pricing will make it difficult for operators to afford.

Key Words: Commercial motorcycle operators, performance enh ancing substances, socioeconomic, health consequences, Sokoto metropolis

I. INTRODUCTION

Commercial motorcycle operators (CMOs) are group of individuals who engaged in the business of transporting individuals, goods and services from one place to another [7].

While performance enhancement substances (PES) are substances that when administered boost the capabilities of the operators beyond species-typical level or statistically-normal range of functioning for that individual [17].

Globally, the most commonly used PES by the CMOs include but are not limited to Pain killers, Datura metel, Cigarette, amphetamine, and Marijuana among others ([7], [8], [17]-[19]). In Nigeria, the most commonly used PES includes the licit and illicit substances ([10]-[7]). The licit substances are those for which their use is permitted by the law [10]. Some examples of the licit substances include tobacco, alcohol, and painkillers among others, whereas, the illicit substances are drugs whose production, transportation, sale or consumption are prohibited by the law [10]. Some examples of illicit drugs include amphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana among others [7]. However, while some of the above substances are allowed by the Nigerian law as medicament, there are reported cases of gross misuse and abuse of the substances ([10]-[17]).

As a result of economic distress, commercial motorcyclists widely referred to as "Kabu-kabu or Okada riders" have been instrumental in bridging the huge communal transport gap in most cities across Nigeria ([7]-[8]). However, their operations are not without dangers that they posed to themselves, their passengers, pedestrians and other road users [8]. In all of the foregoing, the major factors that are attributed to the occurrence of road traffic accidents and other health related problems in Nigeria have been the habits of most CMOs riding under the influence of PES; with a view to enhancing their work performances ([13], [16]-[8]). Additionally, the emergence of commercial motorcycle operation in Nigeria is associated with unemployment that was brought about by such problems as the Oil discovery and the activity of oil exploration, political problems and imposition of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) [7]. Similarly, the discovery of oil and its attendant exploration had destroyed the means of livelihood of the community where it was discovered, such as, fishing and farming; with the majority of the populace left with nothing to do [7]. In addition, political problems and the introduction of SAP have breed greed and corruption, which adversely destroyed many viable sectors of the economy that could have created more job opportunities ([7]-[8]). Thus, people without jobs have resorted to other

means of business in order to sustain themselves, such as petty trading, rearing of animals, welding and vulcanizing among others; but a good number of individuals opted for commercial motorcycle operation [7].Furthermore, healthwise, the World Health Organization in its international report observes that no organ of the body is immune to damages from use of PES; the Heart, Liver, Digestive, Respiratory and Nervous diseases have particularly been found to be following the use of drugs ([14]-[17]). The chronic use of alcohol for example, has been found to have adverse effects on virtually all organs [17].. The same report maintains that one of the most embarrassing effects of drug use, particularly use of marijuana, amphetamine among other drugs is the development of mental illness ([14]-[17]). Moreover, the report suggests that any individual who uses mind-altering substances for a substantial length of time will certainly come down with one form of mental-illness or the other [17]. In line with the foregoing, the spread of HIV and AIDS is also sometimes an unfortunate consequence of substances use [7].

Consequently, based on the above general preamble, this study sets out to specifically examine the use of work PES as well as its socio-economic and health consequences amongst CMOs in Sokoto Metropolis.

II. STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Performance enhancing substances are those drugs that when introduced in to the body improve the capabilities of the user[17]. The Reference[17]reports that the problem of widespread use of mind-altering drugs in Nigeria is on the increase. Furthermore, the organisation maintained that the use of the substances is associated with cultural displacement of the young people through rapid urbanization, general poverty levels that increase the vulnerability of children to street or peer pressure for survival and the belief among commercial motorcyclists and law enforcement agents that PES increase energy which makes them endure long hours of work ([7])-[17]). Overall, the availability and ease with which narcotic and other psychotropic drugs are distributed in Nigeria increase exposure of the CMOs to subsequent use of the substances [8].

Similarly, in spite of the stringent measures adopted in Nigeria to curb the menace of substances use through state agencies, such as the National Drug Law enforcement Agency the problem has persisted in Sokoto, probably, because, PES can be easily obtainedfrom patent medicine vendors kiosks and other market places [10], Again, in spite of the recommendations of scholars through few empirical studies and the huge amount of funds expended by government through its agencies such as the National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, to fight the scourge of drugs production, trafficking and abuse the problem has persisted [10]. This is evident considering the increasing numbers of road traffic accidents and its associated mortalities, crimes, mental illnesses as well as other health related and socioeconomic problems amongst commercial motorcyclists, resulting from the use of PES ([10], [4], [1]-[11]).

Additionally, the problem of use of PES has been on the increase perhaps because the old method of acquiring and use of the substances by the abusers which were known and probably partially tackled by government agencies fighting the scourge have become oudated, and in its place new substances and pattern have been invented and discovered by commercial motorcycle operators in Sokoto [4]. Perharps again, that the current lists of substances being used which hitherto were legal have now been converted for illegal use ([4]-[1]).

Several studies have examined the use of work PES among CMOs ([6],[4]-[17]). A study by Reference [6] for example reported why people use work PES, indicating that sex workers use drugs to remain awake at night and to withstand the difficulties of their operation; among the unemployed, such substances provide a positive way for repressing feelings of frustration. Other reasons include poverty, ignorance and lack of organized recreational facilities. More importantly, in the case of CMOs perhaps, the use of PES might be due to their desire to cope with difficulties related to their jobs or aid them in their performance for the realization of monetary proceeds (wealth) [6]. Furthermore, a study by Reference [4] indicates that road traffic accidents and other health related ailments, such as HIV/AIDS amongst CMOs is on the increase judging from the number of accident victims seen at the Out-Patient department who were admitted in both Specialist Hospital and Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto. Other victims are passengers and pedestrians with the bulk constituting women and children [4].

In view of the exposition by the foregoing studies, most previous studies have some methodological flaws by mainly employing few sample sizes which exposed the studies to the problem of bias, which is in line with the assumption of Reference [3]. In addition, according to Reference [3],a phenomenon should be studied if it is broader than the previous ones and if it analyses the topic more methodologically or comprehensively. Therefore, thisstudy will examine the topic utilizing large sample size of 400 respondents. Again, this study will analyze the issue comprehensively through the use of rigorous methodology because it is obvious that there is no empirical evidence in previous research that used large sample size and multi-stage sampling method in drawing its sample.

III. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This quantitative study will offer answers to the following research questions:

- 1. Why CMOs use PES?
- 2. What is the commonly used PES among CMOs?
- 3. Are there perceived socio-economic and health consequences arising from use of PES among CMOs?

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a cross-sectional descriptive survey research design to evaluate the perceptions of CMOs on why they used work PES, the most commonly PES that operators used, as well as to bring to the fore the perceived social, economic and health related consequences associated with substances use in Sokoto Metropolis.

The research setting was Sokoto metropolis, Nigeria. The study population size was 581,300 based on 2016 census. In the course of this study, 400 respondents were randomly selected from 16 major locations of commercial motorcyclists out of the over 30 major stand points. However, 364 researchers' administered questionnaires were properly filled and utilized for analysis; with 24 respondents each drawn from the 16 stand points. This number is thought up as a figure that can be fairly manageable and therefore, forms the basis for generalization of findings.

This study employed Cluster or area sampling technique. Cluster sampling is a way to sample population where the sample is large and disperse. Moreover, it is a technique employed in order to minimize travel time in reaching scattered units of data collection [3]. The sample was divided into three stages; procedurally. The first stage divided the sixteen (16) randomly selected commercial motorcyclists location or stand points out of the over 30 points into four groups base on their take off points into four directions of the city, namely; Southern area, western area, Northern and Eastern area of the city.

The second stage randomly selected a stand point from each group. Finally, a sample of 100 commercial motorcycle operators were selected from each selected directions. The justification for using cluster sampling is to provide for representativeness by commercial motorcyclists from all corners of Sokoto city. The selection of the stand points from each location continues until all the standpoints from the respective areas (Mami market, Central Market gate, Central Motor park, Dandima, Uduth, Illela garage, Tashar kura, Giginya secretariat, SCOE, Specialist Hospital, Mabera, College of Nursing, Arkilla/Man Ada Round about and Kwannawa)were covered and all the respondents were attended to.

A structured questionnaire adapted from Reference [4] and Reference [1] was utilized for the items of data collection. The questionnaire was divided into four sections. Section A consists of the socio-demographic data of the respondents. Section B focuses on why CMOs used PES. Additionally, section C focuses on the commonly used PPES by the CMOS and Section D focuses on the social, economic and health consequences of use of PES. Furthermore, a dully signed consent form was obtained from the respondents. Finally, the data collected was analyzed utilizing statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS).

V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table I shows that majority of the respondents are within the age ranges of 14-28 years (84.8%), while the least respondents are within the age range of 44-58 years (1.4%). Furthermore, all the respondents are males (100%). Also, with regards to the marital status of the respondents, majority 264 (72.5%) are single while 100 (27.5%) are married. Additionally, concerning the religion of the respondents, the result shows that majority of the respondents 352 (96.7) practice Islam while the least respondents, 12 (3.3%) practice Christianity. Moreover, with regards to the educational level of the respondents, the result shows that majority, 135 (37.1%) possesses primary school certificate while the least respondents 27% (7.4) possesses post-secondary school certificate. In addition, concerning the ethnic background of the respondents, the result of this study shows that majority of the sample, 70 (74.2) are Hausas and the least, 4 (1.1%) are the Tivs, Zabarmawa and Dakarkari.

TABLE	1. SOCIO-I)FMOGRAP	HIC DATA	OF THE	RESPONDENTS
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Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
14-28	309	84.8
29-43	50	13.8
44-58	5	1,4
Total	364	100
Sex		
Male	364	100.0
Total	364	100
Marital status		
Single	264	72.5
Married	100	27.5
Total	364	100
Religion		
Islam	352	96.7
Christianity	12	3.3
Traditional	0	0
Total	364	100
Educational Level		
Informal/Arabic	122	33.5
Primary	135	37.1
Secondary	80	22.0
Post-secondary	27	7.4
Total	364	100
Ethnic group		
Hausa	70	74.2
Yoruba	15	4.1
Igbo	4	1.1

Fulani	58	15.9
Nupe	13	3.6
Others (Tiv, Zabarmawa & Dakarkari)	4	1.1
Total	364	100

Similarly, Table 2 shows that the mean of the study items ranged between 3.2 and 3.7. Precisely, the mean and standard deviation of' "the substances keep me awake" are 3.4 and 0.6 respectively, which shows that the participants of the current study are satisfied with the statements indicating the practicability of the substances in increasing work performance. Similarly, the mean and standard deviation of "the substances increase my energy" to work are 3.3 and 0.8, which also indicate that respondents accept the statements indicating the practicability of the substances in increasing work performance. In addition, the mean and standard deviation of "the substances protect me from cold" is 3.2 and 0.3 respectively, which also indicate that respondents agreed with the statements indicating the substance enhances their work. Furthermore, the mean and standard deviation of "the substances protect me from hunger" are 3.5 and 0.4 respectively, which shows that the respondents in this study agreed with the questions concerning the item's ability to increase work performance. Finally, the mean and standard deviation of "the substances make me work for longer hours" are 3.7 and 0.3 respectively, which signifies that the respondents in the current study are satisfied with the statements or questions concerning the item's ability to increase work performance.

In view of the foregone result, most of the respondents agree that PES make them work for longer hours, followed by those who agree that the substances protect them from cold, then, those who agree that the substances keep them awake, it increase their energy at work, and finally those who agree that the substances protect from hunger. The findings of this study is similar to that of Reference [4]who observed that most commercial renting operators in Nigeria use PES to make them work for longer time and keep them awake throughout the night.

TABLE 2:	WHY	CMOS	USE	WORK PES	

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Items	Mean	SD
The substance Keeps me awake	3.4	0.6
The substance Increases my energy	3.3	0.8
The substance protects me from cold	3.5	0.4
The substance protects me from hunger	3.2	0.3
The substance makes me work for longer hours	3.7	0.3

Moreover, Table 3 indicates the frequently abused substances by the commercial motorcycle operators in Sokoto. Generally, the mean of the measures ranges from 3.2 to 3.8. Specifically, the mean and standard deviation of 'I take

Tramol' is 3.8 and 0.6 respectively, which indicates that the respondents mostly agree that Tramol is the often used substances to increase their performance. This is followed by 'I smoke Cigarette' and 'I sip Arab tea' with a mean and standard deviations of 3.5 and 4.0 respectively, indicating agreement by respondents that the substances increase work performance among the respondents. Next concerning commonly used PES are statement 'I chew Kolanut' and 'I smoke Marijuana' with a mean and standard deviation of 3.4 and 0.5, respectively, showing agreement by the respondents that they drugs are the commonly used and it increases work performance. This is followed by statement 'I consume cough syrup' with a mean and standard deviation of 3.2 and 0.3 respectively, indicating that the substance is one of the most commonly used substances that enhance work performance.

Based on the preceding findings, the respondents agree that the most commonly used PES is Tramol, followed by cigarette and Arab tea, marijuana and Kolanut, and cough syrup. The result of this study is consistent with the report of References [9], [15], [12] and [2]. who stated that the most commonly abused substances among youth in West African include but are not limited to psychoactive substances such as painkillers and Marijuana, because the drugs help to keep the users awake and to withstand the harsh nature of their operations.

TABLE 3: THE COMMONLY USED PES

Items	Mean	SD
I chew Kolanut	3.4	0.5
I smoke Cigarette	3.5	0.4
I take Tramol	3.8	0.6
I sip Arab Tea	3.5	0.4
I smoke Marijuana	3.4	0.3
I consume Cough Syrup	3.2	0.3

Furthermore, concerning the perceived socio-economic and health consequences of the use of PES, Table 4 shows the mean of the items ranges between 3.5 and 3.1. Precisely the mean and standard deviation of 'I experienced persistent headache' is 3.5 and 0.3 respectively, indicating that the respondents mostly are in agreement that use of PES is associated with health related hazards. This is followed by statements 'I sustain road traffic accident' and 'I experienced difficulty in sleep', which have the mean and standard deviations of 3.4 and 0.3 respectively, which implies that the respondents mostly agree that road accidents and inability to sleep are as a result of use of work performance enhancing substances. The next statements are 'I have problems with law enforcement agents' and 'I experienced stress and depression', which have a mean and standard deviations of 3.2 and 0.2 respectively. This implies that the respondents are mostly in agreement that mental illness and violation of laws by the respondents are related with use of PES. Moreover, the

statement 'I cannot take care of my family adequately' has a mean and standard deviations of 3.1 and 0.2 respectively, signifying agreement among majority of the respondents that use of PES is associated socio-economic problems among operators.

In view of the earlier result concerning the socio-economic and health consequences of the use of work PES, majority of the respondents are in agreement that agree that PES exposes operators to persistent headache, road traffic accidents, difficulty in sleep, problems with law enforcement agents, and stress and depression, and that the respondents lack the resources to cater for their family. The result of this study is consistent with the findings of other studies, such as that of the References [17], [18], [9] and [5]) who suggested that drug use and abuse interfere with the judgment of the abuser resulting into fatal road accidents and violation of laws of a given nation state as well as exposing the users to several health challenges.

TABLE 4: PERCEIVED SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF WORK PES

Items	Mean	SD
I sustain road traffic accident	3.4	0.3
I had problems with law enforcement agents	3.2	0.2
I experienced difficulty in sleep	3.4	0.3
I experienced stress and depression	3.2	0.2
I experienced persistent headache	3.5	0.3
I cannot take care of my family adequately	3.1	0.2

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of this study was basically to assess the perceptions of commercial motorcyclists concerning why the operators use work performance enhancement substances, the commonly PES consumed by the operators as well as the socio-economic and health consequences of the substances. The outcome of this study highlighted the implication of the use of work performance enhancement substances on the social and economic as well as the health status of the operators and other road users in the society. Specifically, the result of the study indicated that majority of the operators resort to using PES because the substances make them work for longer hours, it protects them from cold, it keeps them awake, it increases their energy during work, as well as protecting them from experiencing hunger.

Additionally, the result of this study established the commonly used PES among motorcyclists in Sokoto, which include Tramol, Cigarette, Arab tea, Marijuana, Kolanut, and Cough syrup. Furthermore, this study identified the socioeconomic and health consequences suffered by the operators in Sokoto metropolis, which include persistent headache, road traffic accidents, inability to sleep, problems with law enforcement agents such as the police and road traffic officers, stress and depression, as well as the operators' inability to cater for their family adequately because most of the resources they could have used for the needs of the family are squandered on drugs.

Even though this study has certain limitations brought about by lack of an in depth understanding of the lived experiences of the operators, which could be remedied through looking at the issue under the lenses of constructivist researchers, nevertheless, the outcome of this study are similar to other studies from Southern Nigeria and other African countries.

Consequently, the result of this study suggests that the use of PES among commercial motorcycle operators in Sokoto is detrimental to the socio-economic and health of the operators. Therefore, the outcome of this study will complement the existing body of literature concerning the use of work PES among CMOs and its consequences in healthcare researches.

Thus, due to the disturbing nature of substances use and misuse among CMOs, it is important to eradicate the scourge through measures that enlighten the victims to shun use of Specifically, there is the need to introduce drug PES. education in the school's curriculums; so that pupil will gain knowledge about both licit and illicit substances at first value. Again, government should organize educational and sensitization programs on the dangers posed by performance enhancement substances. Because by so doing the program will increase awareness on the dangers of PES use among commercial motorcycle operators in Sokoto metropolis and Nigeria at large. In addition, government should enforce laws so that drugs that are psychoactive should not be sold to people without expert's prescriptions; erring people should be sanctioned appropriately. Moreover, substances such as Tramol, Arab tea, Marijuana, Cigarette and Cough syrup should be levied heavily so that the pricing will make it difficult for operators to afford. Furthermore, the Road Safety Corps officials should insist on mounting gadgets such as side mirrors and helmet to all motorcycles; this helps to avert and lessen accidents. Once more, the CMOs should be educated on the importance of rest and leisure because this assist in reducing health related problems such as headache, stress and depression among others. Additionally, It is very important that governments at all levels should intensify in poverty reduction activities because when the youths are empowered through the creation of descent job opportunities, more than half of the problem that exposes operators to frustration, desire to make quick money, invariably leading to PES use, such problem can be eradicated. Again, it is important to empower operators and society at large in order to improve their economic condition. In addition, considering the hazards to health, commercial motorcyclists are encouraged to think of alternative jobs/work.

Finally, there is the need for further studies on the subject matter of commercial motorcycles in order to unravel current and future social, economic and health related problems that this work could not have unraveled; scholars should venture into the area as an important field of research.

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