

# DRUG TRAFFICKING:A LEADING FACTOR TO THE PREVALENCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN NIGERIA

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## ABSTRACT:

*Drug trafficking is an intractable problem that affects many countries of the world. Nigerians top the list of drug traffickers globally and this spoiled the good image of the country. The prevalence of drug abuse and problems associated with it such as health and insecurity are closely connected with trafficking. This paper investigates drug trafficking, the relationship between this menace and the prevalence of substance abuse, and the government control measures to curtail the problem. Content analysis is adopted to review the secondary data. The paper revealed that government is making a concerted effort to control of drug trafficking and abuse by enacting laws and established agencies to enforce the laws, stop the menace and safe guide the lives of the citizens. The paper recommends more efforts be put in place to enforce the drug laws and more funding by the government for the agencies to enhance successful law enforcement.*

**KEYWORDS** Government, Illicit drugs, Insurgency, Law enforcement, Smuggling, Trafficking, Youth

## 1. Introduction

Drug trafficking is a serious problem that hinders the efforts of governments of the international communities in ensuring a substance abuse-free society. Its spread affects global peace and harmony (Shehu 2018). It is one of the intractable problems that affect global peace and a drug-free world. Nigeria was rated the highest in term of drug trafficking in the whole West African sub-region. This assertion is contained in the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) report (2012) which reveals that since the late 1990s, Lagos city, Nigeria's most industrialized and commercialized city was named as the center for cocaine trafficking to Europe. According to the report, more than half of drug pushers under prosecution in 2011 who are of African origin were Nigerians. Most of the drugs been abused are illicitly transported into our countries through our porous borders. According to the United Nations Office of Drugs Crime (UNODC) (2018) toward the end of 2017, the organization witnessed the rise in the menace of trafficking and the use of Tramadol. The report further reiterated that the past 5 years saw the increase in the

arrests from “300 kg to more than 3 tonnes. Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Niger, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, and Cote d’Ivoire were highlighted as the major transit or destination countries”. The illegally imported drugs are taken to the Sahel region where the terror and insurgent groups such as Boko Haram in Nigeria, “and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Libya, have partial control”. The UNODC report furtherstated that Tramadol trafficking plays a vital role in destabilizing the Sub-Saharan Africa region (World Report May 2018: 134). This assertion tally with research conducted by Ibrahim, et al. (2017) reveals that out of 237 substance users who are attending drugs treatments in the neuropsychiatric hospital 129 patients were found to be Tramadol abusers. This number indicates that 54.4 percent of the total number of persons interviewed abused Tramadol and the prolong intake affected their mental health. The US government report on drug trafficking (2019) rated Nigeria number in the whole world in drug trafficking. The reported narrated that “Nigerian drug traffickers have strengthened partnerships with international cocaine and heroin distribution networks to procure and distribute significant quantities of drugs in the United States and other lucrative markets” (INCSR 2019:225).

The NDLEA, (2015) Report, narrated that drug trafficking becomes a lucrative and booming business that seriously affects the good image of the country. Therefore, serious and tougher joint efforts by the sister agencies must be taken to curtail the menace. To justify this claim NDLEA in 2014 has captured 8,843 persons who were suspected to be illicit drug barons which are equivalent to approximately 339,968 kilograms. The category of the persons arrested were mostly youth age 16 to 40 years and the predisposing factors are, get rich quick syndrome, peer pressure and illiteracy (Ukwayi, Okpa and Akwaji 2019). As it used to be in similar arrests in previous years marijuana, psychotropic drugs, and methamphetamine are the highest drugs recovered with 205,373kgs, 133,920kgs, and 340.8kgs respectively. Some drugs like cannabis have been discovered for many years and are planted and cultivated within Nigeria. The problem trafficking did not stop in Nigeria alone as a lot of Nigerian youth were arrested in many countries of the world with drug trafficking offences and were serving various types of punishment from execution to life imprisonment and detentions for years in international prisons. The problem is more serious in Thailand, United States, India, Malaysia and Brazil (NDLEA 2019; Soniyi 2019). This paper investigated the prevalence of illicit drugs trafficking and its consequences in contemporary Nigerian society.

## **2. Objectives**

- To examine the nature of drug trafficking and how the availability of illicit drug led to substance abuse in Nigeria
- To discuss the prevalence and consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse in Nigeria
- To study the government program aiming at reducing the drug trafficking and menace of abuse in Nigeria

## **3. Material and Methods**

This paper used content analysis to review the secondary source this paper. NDLEA reports, National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) reports, National Drugs Control Master Plan

(NDCMP), reports of Federal Ministry of Health (FMH) and related agencies were utilized. Others are the Journal articles, Newspapers reports, internet sources and periodicals were utilized to carry out this study.

#### **4. Results and Discussion**

##### **4.1 Theoretical Framework**

The paper adopts Robert K Merton Strain Theory (1938) as a theoretical standpoint for a better explanation of the topic under review. The theory stated that “social structure within society such as lack of income or lack of quality education, may pressure citizens to commit a crime” which means society can encourage deviance to a great extent. Strain exist “between the socially-encourage goals of the society and the socially-acceptable means to achieve them”. Nigeria a neo-capitalist nation almost everything requires and involves money to achieve it, even the so-called universal primary education which is supposed to be free is indeed in a deplorable situation to the extent that no one wants to enroll his children there. The youth of the country had inculcated the habit of getting rich quick syndrome therefore instead of them to follow the socially-encourage goals of the society which is through hard work and endurance and socially-acceptable means to achieving them through education and becoming law-abiding, they refused and prepare quick money without thinking about the repercussion of such action. These are the categories who engage themselves in drug trafficking. Merton identified those who accept both social encourage goals and socially-acceptable means to achieve the goals through endurance and coupled with hard work despite the difficulties as conformists. Innovator is those categories of citizens who need the money and occupy a high social status, unfortunately, they do not work hard to acquire the necessary educational qualifications that will enable them to reach that level instead of them to devise another way to achieve their ends are those who engage in drug addiction. Similarly, those categories who rejected both socially-acceptable means and the goals and decided to drop out of society, in general, are called the retreatists and according to Merton are the categories who engage in drug trafficking because of the lucrative nature of the act irrespective of the consequences.

##### **4.2 Drug Trafficking Issues at Stake**

The present situation regarding drug trafficking and the activities of some Nigerians both at home and abroad in the illicit drug business had spoiled the good image of the country. According to the US International Narcotics Control Strategic Report (2019), Nigeria is rated number one in the whole world in drug trafficking. Nigerian drug barons have specialized in trafficking thereby forming a network connived with other criminals of the USA through Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe. The reported narrated that “Nigerian drug traffickers have strengthened partnerships with international cocaine and heroin distribution networks to procure and distribute significant quantities of drugs in the United States and other lucrative markets” (INCSR 2019:225). This trend by the Nigerians within and outside the country has made drug abuse among the youth very rampant (Ukwayi, Akpa and Akwaji 2019). The level of drug abuse among Nigerians according to the UNODC report of 2019 has

doubled the “global average of 5.6 percent”. Nigeria has a population of 200 million people and 14 percent of this population “aged between 15 and 64 abuse drugs” (UNODC 2019) even though marijuana is widely abused (UNODC 2018; Kazeem 2019; Ukwai, Okpa, and Akwaji, 2019). Tramadol appears to be the most widely abused smuggled and most problematic drugs in Nigeria (INCSR 2019). The drug is manufactured in India and trafficked to Nigerian in large quantity through the country’s seaports (Kazeem 2019). Both legal “Indian pharmaceutical companies and illicit clandestine labs mass-produce and ship Tramadol and counterfeit Tramadol tablets in 200, 225, and 250-milligram dosages for the Nigerian market” (INCSR 2019: 226; Kazeem 2019). In 2018 the joint patrol team comprising the members Nigerian Custom Services (NCS) and NDLEA confiscated over five hundred million tablets of Tramadol at the Apapa port in Lagos (the Nigerian largest seaport) (INCSR 2019: 226; Kazeem 2019). The agency in 2019 has confiscated 8,031,207 kilograms of illicit drugs, in Kano State in which marijuana top the list with “4,525.473 Kilograms”, followed by “psychotropic substance, 2,927,669”, other substances are hard drugs “heroin 160,900 kg and cocaine 3,455kgs. Also, among the confiscated items was “160,900kgs of other exhibits during the period under review”. The agency also captured, prosecuted and incarcerated 906 suspects, 103 women and 803 men respectively, this development makes Kano State shifted the status of the first position in 2018 to six positions among the 36 state of Nigeria with the highest incident of drug cases in the country (Sahara Reporters New York 2019; NDLEA 2019).

**Table 1 Nigerians Arrested for Drug Trafficking Offence**

Name	Age in Years	Zone	Year	Drug of Arrest	Country of Arrest	Amount in Kg
Paul Osinakachi Okichiku Matince, Godswil Chitachi, Reuben Godwin	31 35 27 26	South East	2019	Cocaine	Mumbai India	40g
Anonymous			2017	Mephedrone rock and powder	Delhi India	101 kg
Christian Ugbechi	30	South East	2018	Heroin Hydrochloride	Darussalam Tanzania	947.57kg
Tammy Olaiya	40	South West	2019	Cocaine	US	7kg
Edwin Elochukwu Anyaku, Lerato Diannah Mohai, Christopher Okonkwo	54 42 53	South East	2017	Herion	Johannesburg South Africa	29kg
Zainab Aliyu		North west	2018	Tramadol	Jidda Saudi Arabia	2,000 packages
Cosmas Ujukwu John Okorie Okereke Cyril Anezi John Paul Onyebuchi Ogunka Henry O.	30 26 31 34 31	South East	2017	Cocaine, Amphetamine, Brown Sugar	Hyderabad, Palaparthi, Sangeetha, India	3kg 30kg 200kg 300kg
Maduka Jona S. Davis Candkwdo Obiesie Chiemerie	35 30 25	South East	2019	Methamphetamine crystal meth	Khmer, Cambodia	21kg

Ekene Etemba, Omeje Jonson Chibu,	29 20	South East	2019	Methamphetamine	Lao Bao, Vietnam	4kg 3.2kg 7.5kg
Waheed Somade		South West	2019	Cocaine	Jedda, Saudi Arabia	1,135kg
Oparesi Oslum		South East	2019	Cocaine	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	227kg
Joseph Ukpa Osita	40	South East	2018	68 Capsule of Cocaine	Bangkok, Thailand	1,200kg
Odeomenan Kenneth O	23	South East	2014	Heroin	Delhi, India	330kg

Sources: Punch Newspaper, vangurdng.com, economicstime.com news,

Table 1 present the number of Nigerian arrested abroad for drug trafficking. The majority of those arrested are youth age ranged from 20 to 35 years. The data also reveal that the menace is increasing as more arrest were made in 2019 the number of arrests is equalled to the total sum of the arrest made from 2014 to 2018, that is why the country is ranked number one in drug trafficking globally. However, Zainab Aliyu who was arrested at Jidda, Saudi Arabia was discharged and acquitted she was confirmed innocent but was framed by criminal groups among the airport staff where the drugs she was arrested with was unknowingly inserted in her luggage at the checking point in the airport. It was later confirmed by the security personnel and the culprits were arrested.

**Table 2 The Number of Nigerians Arrested for Drug Trafficking Offences**

Year	Number Persons Arrested	Country of Arrest	Type of Drugs	Penalty
2017	23	Saudi Arabia	Narcotics	Death row
2017	81	Malaysia	Cocaine, Heroin	Death row
2017	35	India	Cocaine, Heroin	Imprisonment
2017	350	Thailand	Cocaine, Heroin	Death row
2018	144	Brazil	Narcotics	Imprisonment
2018	650	Thailand	Narcotics	Death row
2018	73	Malaysia	Cocaine, Heroin	Death row
2018	10	Liberia	Cocaine, Heroin	Imprisonment
2018	43	Thailand	Cocaine, Heroin	Imprisonment
2019	119	Malaysia	Narcotics	Death row

Sources: FMT news, pulse ng news, Naija Dazz, *Kennedy L. Yangian, kl.yangian@frontpageafricaonline.com*

Table 2 represents the number of Nigerian arrested for drug trafficking across different countries of the world. It is noticed that over 1000 Nigerian were on death penalties; they were either been executed or about to be executed in the countries where the death penalty is allowed. This data is closely related to a report of THISDAY Newspaper of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 which revealed that over 600 Nigerian are on death row in various Asian countries for drug trafficking-related offences. The table also shows 300 Nigerian were incarcerated in foreign prisons serving various terms some even life imprisonment.

#### 4.3 Drug Trafficking and the Prevalence of Drug Abuse

The prevalence of drug trafficking has led to rampant cases of drug abuse in Nigeria. The prevalence of drug abuse among youth has become a universal social problem. Its implication did not only stop on physical health problems such as liver disorders, inability to take care of one's physical health, cardiovascular diseases, but also mental or 'neuropsychological' problems such as "problems with decision making, reasoning, retentivity to problems with keeping a job" (Fernandez-Serrano et al. 2009). This is to show that the substance uses could affect both the brain as well as the organs of the body. In actual sense, the word Drug Addiction is not directly mentioned in the classification of diseases by the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision (ICD 10). In Nigerian contest, the uses of the drug abuse today become an issue of serious concern to the government, policymakers and the general public. According to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) report (2012), Nigeria is rated number one in both drug trafficking and addiction in West Africa. The report added that approximately 50 per cent of African drug pushers arrested abroad in 2011 were Nigerians. The press release by the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of 2018 narrated that Drug abuse in Nigeria was on the increasing rate and number of drug users in Nigeria is the issue of great concern. It is indeed a serious problem that threatens the lives and the future of the country (Akkina et al. 2012). According to Nigeria Health Watch (2018), over 3 million bottles of codeine syrup were consumed daily Kano and Jigawa States. NDLEA further stressed that it had arrested and detained over 2,205 persons in 2015 on the crime related to drugs and substance abuse in the North. Some of the widely abused drugs now a day are cough syrup, cigarettes, inhalants, cannabis, and alcohol (Akinola 2015). This led to deteriorating of the security situation of Nigeria, read any newspaper or electronic media one will find the cases of insurgency, kidnapping, armed banditry etc which occurred under the influence of drugs.

#### 4.4 Consequences of Drug Trafficking and Abuse

Drug trafficking has many negative effects on individual users and Nigeria in general. In wider society, psychoactive substance instigates the re-occurrence of social unrest such as; criminalities insurgencies and terrorism. Most of these social vices were committed under the influence of drugs (United Nations Drug Control Program 1998). Such consequences social, economic, political and health problems includes insurgency, social unrest, poverty, political violence, physical health issues; hepatitis, HIV/AIDs, cardiovascular diseases, depression, psychoses, anxiety etc. the illicit drugs such as Tramadol that find its way into our communities through traffickers were used to cause the aforesaid problems.

##### 4.4.1 Tramadol Trafficking and Boko Haram Insurgency

Trafficking of illicit drugs constitutes a greater threat to Nigeria's security. It is noticed from the available data from NDLEA and INCRS that Tramadol is the smuggled drug in the country. Many reports revealed the testimony made by the captives and escaped Boko Haram militants stated that Tramadol is widely used by Boko

Haram terrorist group. The insurgents took plenty of Tramadol tablets before launching attacks (Obaji 2019). This statement contained in the interview with a Boko Haram escaped whonarrated they were given plenty of Tramadol tablets before carrying their weapons for the attack. “Everyone took it before leaving the camp. Even if there was nothing else in the camp, there was always Tramadol,” (Obaji 2019). In many instances, NDLEA was found captured a large amount of Tramadol tablets which is believed to be meant for the terrorist group. Though this tablet was meant for painkilling, multiple intakes provide the same sensation to heroin. Another narration by the former militants “whenever we took Tramadol, nothing mattered to us anymore except what we were sent to do,” says Musa. “Because it made us very high and very bold, it was impossible to go on a mission without taking it.” (Obaji 2019). According to Caprecon Development Foundation (CDF) a None Governmental Organization operating in Nigeria to aid Boko Haram victims “It is not very easy to find anyone who lived in a Boko Haram camp without a problem of Tramadol addiction. It was like food for those who were there. They took it every day and night” (CDF 2018). To justify this, claim a Nigerian Police officer was arrested by NDLEA together with a trafficker carrying large quantity (59 KG) of Tramadol table to Boko Haram Terrorist. “He claimed that the drugs were part of consignment seized by the Nigeria Customs Service during its operations in Lagos, and were sold to him at the cost of N6m while the actual market value stands at N24m” (Sahara Reporters- New York 2018, The Cable New 2019; Punch 2019).According to the UNODC 2018 reports toward the end of 2017, the organization witnessed the rise in the menace of trafficking and the use of Tramadol. The report further reiterated that the past 5 years sow the increase in the arrests from “300 kg to more than 3 tonnes. Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Niger, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Cote d’Ivoire were highlighted as the major transit or destination countries”. The illegally imported drugs are taken to the Sahel region where the terror and insurgent groups such as Boko Haram in Nigeria, “and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Libya, have partial control”.

#### 4.4.2 Consequences of Drug Trafficking and Abuse on Health

The availability of trafficked illicit drugs leads to the prevalence of drug abuse which constitutes a significant part of the health problems affecting not only the substance abusers but also the non-users in many ways. There exist a series of health issues associated with drug abuse. The health issues may be related to physical or mental health, both of these impairments are of greater concern to the government and policymakers. People who engage in drug abuse may be infected with heart-related ailments e.g. (high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, musculoskeletal, neurological, and respiratory diseases). This is because substance use and abuse “does not only affect the brain but also destroy the organs of the body” (Keaney et al. 2011). Those drug addicts who engage themselves in injecting had drugs through their blood have a high risk of HIV and AIDs infection, “Cancer of the lungs, throat, stomach, Liver cirrhosis, Hepatitis B and C”. Other health defects that drug addicts’people’s maybe affect with are “reproductive problems (impotence, low sperm count) tuberculosis diabetes mellitus Injuries obtained from road traffic accidents low birth weight babies, babies with fetal alcohol syndrome” etc (Ekpenyongi

2012). Studies conducted on the negative consequences of psychoactive drugs such as cocaine lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) amphetamines shows that their intake causes “sleeping disorders, poor appetite, restless, irritability, suicidal depressions, ecstatic paranoia, hallucinations, panic reactions, sensory disorientation” and in some instance lost of lives (NDLEA, 1997). Parsons reported abusing heroin was discovered to have suffered from “dependence, blood-borne viruses’ psychological abnormalities” (Teeson 2002).

Marijuana smokers get infected from anaemia and scratchy eyes, “dry mouth and throat, increased appetite” and in some cases been hypertensive it very dangerous to those who suffer from cardiovascular problems because it increases heart bit. Cannabis users also stand a higher risk of lung cancer. Research findings from relevant bodies revealed that marijuana distorted brain functioning. It also leads to poor academic performance among users, this is because the cannabis toxic substance harms memory and recall and attentiveness. In a situation where the user decided to quit the intake of cannabis, may encounter with following symptoms; “irritability, decreased appetite, sleep disturbance, sweating, tremor, vomiting and diarrhoea. Heroin is another psychoactive substance which causes health impairments. Heroin affects the “central nervous system, causes respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting” (Carson et al. 2000). Heroin hardly dissolves when it comes to the blood circulation which may lead to clotting and lead to damage of body organs such as lung, liver, kidney and heart. The person suffering from these impairments stands a higher risk of losing his life. Another risk factor for the heroin user is the possibility of been infected with HIV/AIDS during injection when the users share needs. Cocaine is another danger associated with cocaine intake is paralyzes and death, cardiac attack (Craig and Baucum 2001). It arouses sexual desire and encountering difficulties in remembering, sometimes it leads to the distortion of memory and may in some cases also lead to infections such as HIV/AIDS. Methamphetamine is another dangerous substance to the life of the users. A strong desire to use this substance occurs when the frequently been used, withdrawal led to many adverse effects and can easily relapse. The findings of many scholars who conducted a study on the adverse effects of amphetamine stated that the drugs may cause “damage to the brain, affecting both dopamine and serotonin systems”. When taking the drug, instantly a person would feel a strong feeling, named a “rush” or “flash”, for a very short period. Consumption or intake of this drug causes “euphoria, a high, but not a rush, wakefulness, and insomnia, decreased appetite, irritability, aggression, anxiety, nervousness, convulsions, and heart attack”.

The effects of drug trafficking and drug abuse on mental health cannot be overemphasis. Addiction causes serious mental health problem and also its withdrawal affects the mental health of the user (Link et al. 1999). Drug abusers are liable to mental retardation and disorders, it may be a mild mental disorder (neurosis) or severe mental disorder (psychosis) depends on the frequent usage of the drug: frequent intake may lead to problems like: “Substance use disorders (insomnia, restlessness, auditory and visual hallucinations,). Abandonment or withdrawal of tobacco and other substance with high nicotine content may result in the following mental health problems: “nervousness, anxiety, lightheadedness, headaches, fatigues, constipation and diarrhoea, dizziness, sweating, cramps, tremors, palpitations”. Tobacco smokers display some kind of anti-social and deviant behavior the same as



attitudes of the heroin-addicted persons especially when the supply of the products is reduced or stopped. Marijuana smokers suffer from various mental problems such as loss of memory and learning, “distorted perception of sight, sound time and touch, trouble with thinking and problem solving”. This is common among college students who engage themselves in marijuana and other cannabis substance abuse. Heavy smoking of marijuana in some cases make the user to get affected with drugs induced psychoses, hallucinations, delusion, fear and phobia, Cocaine is another dangerous substance which directly affects the health of the user. Cocaine causes serious mental health impairments, the major adverse effects are “nervousness, irritability and restlessness, mild paranoia, physical exhaustion, mental confusion, loss of weight, fatigue or depression”. It affects the brain and alters brain normal function as the abuser suffers from psychotrauma of confusion, anxiety, and depression. Excessive cocaine usage may lead to “cocaine psychosis” that is a severe mental disorder due to cocaine addiction. Other mental disorders are “hallucinations and delusions and insects crawling under their skin” (NIDA 2018).

#### 4.5 Programs to Control Drug Trafficking in Nigeria

The control of drug trafficking in Nigeria began since the pre-independent era during which the British colonial administration introduced the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance in 1935 (NDLEA 2018). This ordinance came out with a comprehensive framework on how the Law Enforcement Agencies would handle drug trafficking issues within the colony (Nwannennaya and Abiodun 2017). Subsequent to the country’s independence, the then Military Administration of General Muhammadu Buhari promulgated Decree No. 20 of 1984 banned the death sentence for the drug traffickers (NDLEA 2018). “The Special Tribunal (Miscellaneous Offences) (Amendment) Decree of 1986 that replaced the death penalty with life imprisonment” was introduced (Klein 1999; NDLEA 2018). Until then the government also established the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) under the CAP N30 LFN 2004. The agency is charged with the responsibility of “controlling illicit drug cultivation, abuse, possession, manufacturing, production, trafficking of narcotics drugs, psychopathic substance, and chemical precursors” (NDCMP 2015-2019:18). Since then the agency has recorded remarkable successes in curbing drug trafficking in the country. The giant efforts of NDLEA encourage international communities’ particularly the US government to assisting the agency “to intelligent-driven one through mentoring and investigative support”. This support had boosted the morale of the agency, before the end of the third quarter of 2018; the agency has arrested 4,736 drug traffickers. The agency confiscated nearly 59 “metric tons (MT) of cannabis; 119 kilograms (kg) of methamphetamine; 17 MT of Tramadol; and approximately eight MT of codeine-infused cough syrup” and burned 267 MT of the confiscated drugs (INCRS 2019).

### 5. Conclusion

The paper discussed the prevalence of drug trafficking and the reoccurrences of drug abuse in Nigeria. Drug trafficking has turned to be an intractable problem facing Nigeria, this is because of increase in the number of drug

traffickers arrested in foreign nations especially the countries of Asian continent, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia are the countries with the highest number Nigerians who were arrested for drug trafficking, over 1000 of Nigerian were on death row, some were already been executed while others are waiting for execution, some were serving life imprisonment and others were serving various terms. Tramadol and cannabis appear to be the most widely abused drugs and cocaine and heroin are the hard drugs mostly trafficked. The illicit trafficking led to social, economic, political and health consequences. Social vices and Insurgency have become the order of the day in Nigeria, the availability of drugs especially Tramadol fueled Boko Haram Insurgence as it has been observed that the terrorist group used Tramadol table excessively before carrying out the attacks. The use of counterfeit drugs led to various health problems to the users both physical and mental health problems. Strain theory of Robert K Merton is adopted as a theoretical stand point that would better explain this study. The study had revealed that the Nigerian government has made adequate laws to address the menace of drug trafficking and abuse. The NDLEA official is carrying out their activities diligently but they are constrained.

## 6. Recommendation

The paper recommends more efforts need to be put in place by the government to enforced the existing drug laws and more funding is needed to enhance successful law enforcement. The government should also recruit more staff to maned the agencies. The staff of NDLEA should discharge their duties assign jointly with other sister agencies. The paper recommends further research on the areas of drug trafficking and abuse because of the intricate nature associated with Drugs.

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