

The Impact of Drug Abuse on Peace and Stability: Case Study - Some Selected Districts in Banadir Region Mogadishu-Somalia

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ABSTRACT

Background: This paper seeks to examine how drug abuse affects peace and stability within certain districts of Mogadishu in Somalia. Using the descriptive and explanatory methodology, the study aims at comprehending the connection between drug abuse and its impacts on the community. To choose the 153 study participants, a non-probability stratified random sampling method will be applied. The samples of people who used as respondents were local leaders, academics, NGOs, women groups, and youth organizations in the districts of Abdi-Aziz, Boondheere, Waaberi and Hodan. The actual data collection was carried out in the form of face-to-face interviews using a structured questionnaire. The answers were then coded and then analyzed in SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences).

Findings: The researcher cites bars and hotels as the most common places of drug abuse with the educational institutions demonstrating relatively lower drug-related behaviors. In addition, the study also brings the issue of youth unemployment as a major factor that leads to the spread of drug abuse. It is promoting better border control and tight supervision of the seaports in an effort to curb drug trafficking in Somalia. The results show that the greatest proportion of drug abusers is represented by people between 15 and 25. The major drug facilitators of illicit drug trade in the country are identified as Somali drug cartels, organized crime groups and drug import companies. The research highlights that unemployment among young people needs to be resolved in order to open employment opportunities, education, and activities as the prevention of drug abuse.

Conclusion: The paper finally found a range of negative consequences, such as an increase in murder, robbery, sexual assaults, theft, violence, and social unrest, all of which negatively affect the security and stability of the country. The research recommends the use of a holistic approach, which focuses on the implementation of evidence-based prevention initiatives among vulnerable groups with specific emphasis to the youth. It should focus these programs on education, awareness and development of life skills to deter the use of drugs and provide alternative opportunities. It is therefore advisable that the Mogadishu municipality should invest in available and quality drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities to help the people who struggle with drug addiction including counseling, detoxification, and long-term rehabilitation.

Keywords: Drug Abuse, Peace, Stability

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Introduction

Somalia is a country in the Horn of Africa, and is bordered by Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, with a coastline stretching 3,333 kilometers, and this has been used to drug traffickers of late.

Mr. Madaale, the former Mayor of Mogadishu and Governor of the Banadir Region, visited Liido Beach, a site that has been subject to claims regarding drug use. He later gave an order that required these and other drug abuse related establishments in the Banadir Region to be closed.

Moreover, he declared that the municipality of the Banadir territory will make further efforts to fight drug

abuse, drug trafficking and distribution of drugs. Banadir local government is in a central position in maintenance of peace and stability of its communities by encouraging conflict resolution, law enforcing, disaster recovering, service delivery, and community development.

The functions of the local governments are essential in fostering stronger, peaceful and resilient societies especially in overcoming the challenges of drugs. Somalia needs peace and stability as a way to make developmental and progress. These conditions are essential in improving the economy of the country, social cohesion, humanitarian conditions, political authority and stability of the region.

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Although Somali encounters many factors that have hindered its ability to achieve peace and stability such as political instability, security, poverty, unemployment, humanitarian crises, and poor institutions, the problem of drugs is a major hindrance. Drug abuse has a far-reaching impact on the young generation and it tends to result to crimes.

The effects of using drugs are dire, including addiction, mental illnesses, a rise in accidents and injuries, and a rise in contacts with the police among the young people among others, which diminishes peace and order.

Drug abuse is a multidimensional and multifaceted challenge that afflicts societies across the world, and presents a major challenge to the peace and stability of a society.

Its far-reaching effects include addiction, health problems, crime, violence, and disruption of socioeconomic life that occur in individual, family and community levels.

The problem has no age, gender, or socioeconomic status, and the negative consequences include reduced productivity, higher healthcare expenditures, and low quality of life. To resolve the issue of drug abuse, a multidisciplinary strategy is required, which includes prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

The inability to deal with this problem can lead to the dire consequences, such as the loss of social confidence in the institutions and the destabilization of a society. Peace is a concept that is considered to be the circumstances, as violent as they might be, within which individuals, families, communities, or even countries are in a harmonious relationship (Royce R, 2009).

Stability is defined as a feature of a model that is resistant to changes in parameters without any large performance alterations (REES, 1997). Peace is not just the absence of violence; in the case of International Relations, it is usually understood as the removal of war in the state. Johan Galtung contributed greatly to this concept, having distinguished between two kinds of peace positive and negative peace (Dijkema & d' Hares, 2007).

Positive peace is not a simple task because it requires incorporation of human perception, good governance structures, and institutions as well as the participation of various cadres to enhance national cohesion without eroding diversity. Positive peace relates highly with inner peace concept. According to Lao Tzu, it is only possible to achieve peace when the heart is peaceful (Mustafa et al., 2023).

Negative peace, conversely, is achieved to a relatively greater extent and it is demonstrated by the lack of violence, extremism, and war. In this case, the state borders are safe, and sovereignty is maintained, and a

state and its citizens can suffer. Negative peace is mostly experienced in such nations as Pakistan where the lack of open conflict does not mean the lack of injustice and bad governance.

Negative peace is a requirement because it is the first stage in the achievement of the positive peace. The main task of a state involved in the conflict is to bring the state out of war and ensure its borders; it is upon the effective governance that positive peace can be achieved.

Such a development requires the introduction of changes within the structure and integration of the people to be able to accept diversity and offer equal opportunities as seen in Pakistan. States are usually in the context of national interests, and even the most liberal states can have goals that have a negative impact on other state populations (Mustafa et al., 2023).

Drug abuse or substance abuse is the use of certain chemicals in order to produce a certain effect on the brain (Harding et al., 1978). According to Karechio (1994) drug abuse is one of the most destructive diseases that affect humankind. He observed that drug abuse had been perpetrated by one out of every Kenyan student and that unless action was taken soon Kenya would be a drug transit zone and might end up being a narcotic state where drug dealing would be the order of the day.

As noted in many works, drug abuse will be linked with crime, prostitution, suicide, violence (especially domestic), and family destruction through quarrelling and death. Drugs also inhibit thinking ability and people go to do harmful actions. This disability leads to impaired or skewed psychological condition, which impairs understanding. A drug is a chemical that is usually referred to as medication in the treatment, prevention, cure, or detection of illnesses, or to improve the physical or mental health (Yusuf et al., 2018).

Drug abuse refers to the misuse of alcohol or illicit drugs, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, among which there are negative effects (School Mattazz, n.d).

Robins categorizes the term drug abuse to refer to the overuse of a given drug over an unrealistically extended period or without therapeutic signs (Yusuf et al., 2018). Yusuf et al. also assert that taking drugs in opposition to the prescriptions of a doctor is drug abuse.

Effects of Drug Abuse among Youth

Adolescents who are addicted to drugs and persist in regular substance abuse frequently encounter a multitude of challenges, including physiological inhibition, psychological disorders, academic difficulties, health-related issues, and mental health problems (Murray et al., 2008). The importance of drug abuse prevention and treatment must be emphasized to promote peace and stability within societies. Drug abuse represents a

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significant barrier to peacekeeping in contemporary contexts.

This issue is pervasive, affecting individuals across various ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds. The repercussions of drug use extend beyond individual users, impacting families, communities, and even nations. This paper examines the threat posed by drugs to peace and stability and explores potential solutions to these challenges. Drug abuse may undermine peace and stability by escalating violence and crime, disrupting economic and political stability.

The detrimental effects of drug use on societal tranquillity and individual well-being are profound. Addressing drug abuse necessitates a multifaceted approach involving law enforcement, treatment, and prevention programs.

Achieving peace and stability in Somalia is crucial for addressing humanitarian issues, fostering economic growth, ensuring good governance, enhancing regional security, and securing international assistance.

Achieving sustainable peace and stability necessitates a multifaceted approach that addresses drug abuse, political reconciliation, inclusive governance, security sector reform, and socioeconomic development.

The drug trade can incite violence among competing factions and facilitate the proliferation of arms, further destabilizing the region. Addressing drug abuse effectively requires a comprehensive strategy that includes law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.

Regional and international collaboration is essential to combat drug trafficking and dismantle associated networks.

Paper study question

How drug abuse affects peace and stability in Some selected districts in Mogadishu Somalia

By addressing drug abuse and its related challenges, this paper aims are

- ✓ To determine the factors influencing the spread of drug abuse in society
- ✓ To establish the origins of drug trafficking in Somalia
- ✓ To propose viable solutions to drug abuse
- ✓ To investigate the most prevalent regions and average age of drug abuse
- ✓ To identify the intermediaries involved in illegal drug sales in Mogadishu.

Method and Materials

The explanatory research design was used with a descriptive one to examine the role of drug abuse in affecting peace and stability in the selected districts of Mogadishu in Somalia. The authors have chosen this design because it allows to comprehensively investigate

the topic matter, whereas the descriptive studies were employed to describe the respondents. The first sampling method that was considered as a non-probability sampling method, but, in the end, stratified random sampling which is a probability sampling method was used.

This methodology helped the researcher to be able to choose their participants strategically to form the sample. To make the results more reliable, the main data collection tool was a questionnaire that was administered. The sample population included the local leaders, scholars, NGOs, women and youth organizations in the sampled districts and it amounted to 245 people.

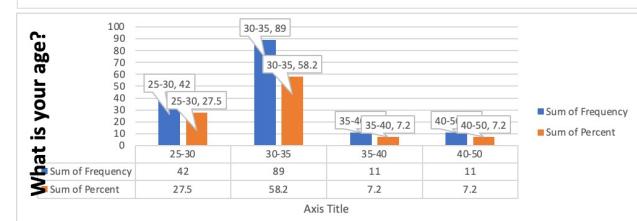
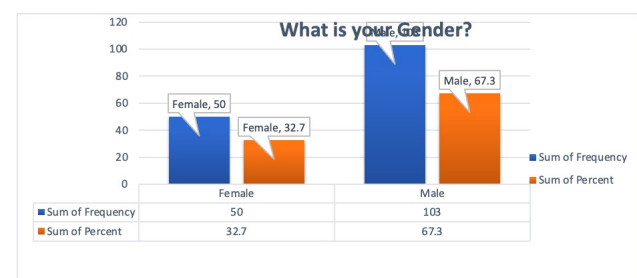
The formula used to determine the minimum size of the sampling, $n = N/1 + N(0.0025)$ was used to determine the sample size which was calculated using the formula as $n=153/N$ and $N=100.00$, where n is the sample size, N is the population size of the study and 0.0025 is the margin of error (Amin, 2005). These 153 respondents were sampled in four districts (Abdi- Aziz, Boondheere, Waaberi and Hodan) in Mogadishu in Somalia. The researcher used a face-to-face method of data collection.

Then, the data were coded and typed into the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) where frequencies, percentages and standard deviations of every response were computed.

Results and Interpretation

Table 1 Categories of Sample

Categories	Target Populations	Sample
Abdi-Aziz	85	53
Boondheere	70	44
Waaberi	55	34
Hodan	35	22
Total	245	153

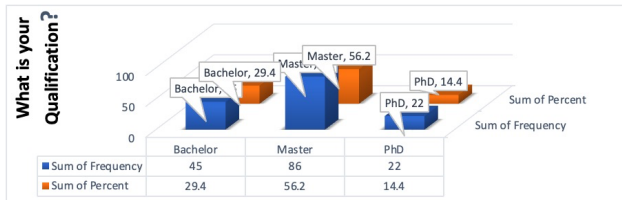


The demographic description of the respondents is done in four variables namely, gender, age, educational qualification and years of work experience. The largest percentage of respondents was male, 67.32, with the female respondents coming up at 32.68 as shown in the

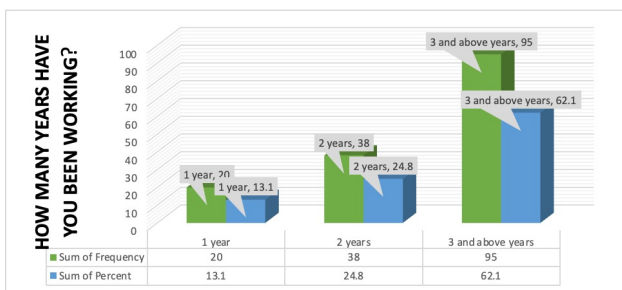
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bar chart 1. This means that the percentage of male respondents is more in the survey.

In terms of age, the Longest Bar Chart 2 indicates that the majority of the respondents (58.17%) fell within the 30-35 age group with nearly one-third of the respondents aged between 25-30. The sample consisted of respondents of ages 35-50, 40-50, and 50-50 at the proportion of 7.19%. Such results imply that the highest number of respondents belonged to the age group of 30-35 years.



Regarding educational attainment, Bar Chart 3 shows that most of the respondents had a Master degree (56.21%), the next percentage (29.41) was the bachelor degree and the last (14.38) was the PhD. Such a distribution shows that the majority of the respondents had postgraduate education.



the Bar Chart 4 demonstrates the years of professional experience of the respondents. The most recent experience of 3 or more years was the highest percentage (62.09%) followed by 24.84 years and one year experience (13.07%) respectively in their respective work places. These findings show that most of the respondents were fairly experienced

Table 2

Lack of social awareness and child neglect following family breakdown (Marriage breakdown)	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	18	11.8
Agree	52	34.0
Neutral	8	5.2
Disagree	61	39.9
Strongly Disagree	14	9.2
Total	153	100.0

As indicated in Table 2, 39.9% of the respondents were not convinced and 9.2% highly not convinced that lack of awareness of social and child neglect following family (marriage) disintegration is one of the factors related to the proliferation of drug abuse. This is against the 11.8%

that agreed and 34% strongly agreed to this statement and 5.2 percent who were neutral. Therefore, majority (49.1) of the respondents did not support this association.

Table 3

High unemployment rate amongst youth in Somalia	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	101	66.0
Agree	33	21.6
Disagree	19	12.4
Total	153	100.0

According to Table 3, 66% of the respondents strongly agreed and 21.6% agreed that high youth unemployment in Somalia is one of the factors that spread drug abuse and 12.4% disagreed. In general, 87.6 percent of the respondents had agreed with this idea.

Table 4

Young Somali people have easy access to drugs everywhere	Frequency	Percent
Agree	43	28.1
Neutral	23	15.0
Disagree	54	35.3
Strongly Disagree	33	21.6
Total	153	100.0

Table 4 indicated that 28.1% of the respondents were in agreement with the fact that easy access to drugs in all places among the young Somali is a factor in the proliferation of drug abuse. Nevertheless, 35.3% did not agree and 21.6% strongly disagreed, and 15% did not answer. As such, most (56.9) individuals denied this as one of the critical factors.

Table 5

Some of the drugs are locally made and supplied in Bajaj's, Dhowey cars, parks, hotels, clubhouses, Pharmaceutical stores, and kiosks, as well as those who go about on foot selling these drugs.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	7	4.6
Agree	21	13.7
Neutral	17	11.1
Disagree	75	49.0
Strongly Disagree	33	21.6
Total	153	100.0

As it can be seen in Table 5, 4.6 and 13.7 percent of the respondents strongly agree and agree, respectively, that there are some drugs produced in Somalia. On the contrary, 49% disagreed and 21.6% strongly disagreed, 11.1% were neutral. Therefore, most (70.6%) people dismissed local production as a major source of drug trafficking in Somalia.

Table 6

Both airfields and airports in Somalia are the primary sources of drug trafficking.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	40	26.1
Agree	77	50.3
Neutral	5	3.3
Disagree	31	20.3
Total	153	100.0

Table 6 shows that 26.1% of the respondents strongly supported and 50.3% supported the fact that airfields and airports in Somalia are a major drug trafficking route. At the same time, 20.3 percent disagreed and 3.3 percent was neutral. In general, 76.4 percent of the respondents confirmed this relationship.

Table 7

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Somali seaports and the borders of neighboring countries are the primary sources of drug trafficking.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	92	60.1
Agree	54	35.3
Neutral	1	.7
Disagree	6	3.9
Total	153	100.0

Table 7 indicates that 60.1 and 35.3 percent of the respondents strongly believed and believed, respectively, that Somali seaports and borders with the neighboring states are the main sources of drug traffickers. Only 3.9% disagreed, with 0.7% neutral. As a result, 95.4 percent of the respondents supported this opinion.

Table 8

To raise youth awareness about the side effects of drug abuse, public outreach should be made to schools and universities; adverts should be made via television, radio, and social media.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	30	19.6
Agree	36	23.5
Neutral	7	4.6
Disagree	61	39.9
Strongly Disagree	19	12.4
Total	153	100.0

Table 8 reveals that, 19.6% of the respondents strongly concurred and 23.5% concurred that creating awareness among the youth regarding the side effects of drug abuse is an imperative solution. Conversely, 39.9% opposed this suggestion and 12.4% opposed it strongly, and 4.6% of the respondents were indifferent. By extension, most of the respondents (52.3) disagreed with the perception that awareness campaigns are a basic solution to drug abuse.

Table 9

Providing access to employment opportunities and free education and engaging youth in recreational activities to relieve stress	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	95	62.1
Agree	31	20.3
Neutral	2	1.3
Disagree	18	11.8
Strongly Disagree	7	4.6
Total	153	100.0

Table 9 shows the respondents perception about the roles played by providing employment opportunities, free education and recreational activities to young people as a measure to curb drug abuse. The results show that 62.1% had a strong agreement and 20.3% agreed with this way. On the other hand, 11.8, 4.6 and 1.3 percent disagreed, strongly disagreed and had a neutral position respectively. In all, a majority of 82.4% said that access to employment, education, and recreational involvement were a stressful solution.

Table 10

Enforcing drug control laws and pharmacists should be mandated not to sell drugs to people unless they are with evidence of doctor's prescriptions.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	2	1.3
Agree	14	9.2
Neutral	10	6.5
Disagree	90	58.8
Strongly Disagree	37	24.2
Total	153	100.0

Table 10 on the other hand indicates that there is a great resistance to tougher control measures. Particularly, 1.3% of the respondents strongly attended and 9.2% attended that the implementation of the drug control laws and the

pharmacist who should also insist on a medical prescription as a pre-condition to dispense medication is necessary intervention. Nevertheless, this proposal had 58.8 percent in disagreement and 24.2 percent in strongly disagree with the option and 6.5 percent were neutral. Therefore, it is quite clear that a large majority (83%), opposed the idea that strengthening legal enforcement and prescription controls, are the necessary solutions to drug abuse.

Table 11

Increase taxes on imported drugs to reduce access to drugs	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	16	10.5
Agree	79	51.6
Neutral	11	7.2
Disagree	44	28.8
Strongly Disagree	3	2.0
Total	153	100.0

Table 11 shows that 10.5 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 51.6 percent agreed that raising taxes on imported medicines to curb the access to medicines is a critical solution to the drug abuse. But again, 28.8 percent disagreed and 2 percent strongly disagreed and 7.2 percent were neutral. Generally, most of them (62.1) were in favour of this step.

Table 12

Drug abuse can lead to theft, social unrest, and security disturbances	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	62	40.5
Agree	62	40.5
Disagree	21	13.7
Strongly Disagree	8	5.2
Total	153	100.0

Table 12 tells that 40.5 percent of the respondents strongly responded that drug abuse compromised peace and stability through theft, social unrest, and security disturbances. As a contrast, 13.7% said no and 5.2% strongly said no. In this way, 81 percent of the respondents confirmed this effect.

Table 13

Drug abuse can adversely affect peace and stability, including murder, robbery, and sexual assaults.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	54	35.3
Agree	77	50.3
Neutral	1	.7
Disagree	13	8.5
Strongly Disagree	8	5.2
Total	153	100.0

According to Table 13 35.3 and 50.3 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that drug abuse impacts negatively on peace and stability by murder, robbery, and sexual assaults. In the meantime, 8.5% of the population disagreed and 5.2% strongly disagreed, and 0.7% were neutral. Therefore, this association was endorsed by 85.6% of them.

Table 14

Table 14 indicates that 13.7% of the respondents strongly concurred and 16.3% agreed that drug abuse is a contributor to other adverse effects of peace and stability such as petty crimes which included disturbing the peace in a public place, moving offenses, and breaking the law.

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On the other hand, the disagreement was 34 percent and strong disagreement was 24.2 percent with 11.8 percent being neutral. Therefore, most of them (58.2) did not accept this association. **Table 15**

Other negative impacts of drug abuse are disturbing peace between the society by creating civil wars and destabilizing society.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	3	2.0
Agree	22	14.4
Neutral	20	13.1
Disagree	78	51.0
Strongly Disagree	30	19.6
Total	153	100.0

Table 15 shows that 2% of the respondents strongly believed and 14.4% believed that drug abuse disrupts the peace in the society by instigating civil war and destabilizing the community. Conversely, 51 per cent disagreed and 19.6 per cent strongly disagreed, and 13.1 per cent neutral. All in all, 70.6 per cent of the respondents did not agree with this influence.

Table 16

Drug abuse can also damage the progress achieved in peace and stability and threaten any other societal improvement.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	20	13.1
Agree	10	6.5
Neutral	21	13.7
Disagree	55	35.9
Strongly Disagree	47	30.7
Total	153	100.0

Table 16 shows that 13.1 percent of the respondents strongly agree and 6.5 percent agree that drug abuse can reverse all the gains made in peace and stability and jeopardize other social developments. However, 35.9% and 30.7% disagreed with this statement and strongly disagreed with it respectively. Also, 13.7% of the respondents were neutral. In general, 66.6 per cent of the interviewees did not agree that idea.

Table 17

Schools and educational institutions are the most popular areas of drug abuse.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	3	2.0
Agree	41	26.8
Neutral	16	10.5
Disagree	31	20.3
Strongly Disagree	62	40.5
Total	153	100.0

As it can be seen in Table 17, 2.0% strongly agreed and 26.8% agreed that the most common places to have drug abuse are schools and educational institutions. On the other hand, 20.3% did not agree and 40.5% strongly did not agree with this idea, and 10.5% did not express their opinion. Therefore, the largest number of 60.8 percent of the respondents did not agree that argument.

Table 18

Bars and Hotels are the most popular areas of drug abuse	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	86	56.2
Agree	32	20.9
Neutral	6	3.9
Disagree	29	19.0
Total	153	100.0

Table 18 shows that 56.2 and 20.9 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the most frequent places of drug abuse are bars and hotels. Conversely, 19.0% had the opposite opinion to this statement and 3.9% had a neutral view. In turn, it resulted

in a significant percentage of the 77.1 that said bars and hotels were the most common locations where people abuse drugs.

Table 19

Homes and markets are the most common places for drug abuse	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	13	8.5
Agree	22	14.4
Neutral	25	16.3
Disagree	62	40.5
Strongly Disagree	31	20.3
Total	153	100.0

Table 19 indicates that 8.5 percent of the respondents strongly supported the statement that homes and markets are the most common locations of drug abuse and 14.4 percent agreed to the statement. On the other hand, 40.5% did not agree and 20.3% strongly did not agree with the opinion. Another 16.3% of the participants were neutral. Thus, most 60.8% of the respondents did not agree that drugs abuse is common at home and in the markets.

Table 20

Ages between 15-25 years are the most users of drug abuse	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	78	51.0
Agree	62	40.5
Disagree	10	6.5
Strongly Disagree	3	2.0
Total	153	100.0

According to Table 20, answering strongly agree and agree, the number of respondents who were in agreement was 51.0% and 40.5% respectively that persons within the 15-25 years old bracket are the most frequent users of drugs. Conversely, 6.5 and 2.0 percent disagreed and strongly disagreed with this claim respectively. All in all, the percentage of those who confirmed the statistic of the 15-25 age bracket as the main demographic of drug users was 91.5.

Table 21

Mostly in Somalia, drug abusers are between the ages of 25 and 40	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	17	11.1
Agree	31	20.3
Neutral	23	15.0
Disagree	71	46.4
Strongly Disagree	11	7.2
Total	153	100.0

Table 21 indicates that 11.1 percent strongly agreed and 20.3 percent agreed that drug abusers are mostly those who are between the age of 25 and 40 years. On the contrary, 46.4% disapproved and 7.2% strongly disapproved, with 15% of them remaining at the level of neutrality. Thus, most of the respondents (53.6) did not think that this age group was the dominant one.

Table 22

Above the age of 40 are the most common ones who use drug abuse	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	26	17.0
Agree	23	15.0
Neutral	1	.7
Disagree	46	30.1
Strongly Disagree	57	37.3
Total	153	100.0

Table 22 shows that 17 percent of the respondents strongly indicated their agreement and 15 percent indicated agreement that those above 40 years are the most frequent drug abusers. On the other hand, 30.1%

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said no and 37.3% said strongly no and 0.7% said neutral. In general, 67.4 percent of the respondents opposed this view.

Table 23

Somali drug cartels and organized crime groups like Al-Shabaab are the primary facilitators of illicit drugs through weak border control.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	34	22.2
Agree	71	46.4
Neutral	12	7.8
Disagree	22	14.4
Strongly Disagree	14	9.2
Total	153	100.0

Table 23 indicates that, 22.2 percent of the respondents strongly believed and 46.4 percent believed that the Somali drug cartels or organized crime groups like Al-Shabaab are the major facilitators of illicit drugs through lack of good border controls. On the contrary, 14.4% did not agree and 9.2% did not agree strongly and 7.8% were neutral. Consequently, 68.6 percent of the respondents confirmed this association.

Table 24

Corrupt officials facilitate the production and distribution of illegal drugs by taking bribes or other incentives.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	34	22.2
Agree	24	15.7
Neutral	18	11.8
Disagree	52	34.0
Strongly Disagree	25	16.3
Total	153	100.0

As indicated in Table 24, 22.2% of the respondents strongly believed that corrupt officials are involved in the production and distribution of illegal drugs through the bashing of bribes or other incentives, whereas 15.7% agreed. On the contrary, 34% of the respondents did not agree with this statement and 16.3% of the respondents greatly disagreed. This was because only 11.8% of the respondents had no opinion. Therefore, most of the respondents (50.3%) objected to the fact that corrupt officials aid production and distribution of illegal drugs by taking bribes or other informative offers.

Table 25

Some individuals grow or manufacture drugs themselves and operate small-scale, such as growing marijuana locally known as HASHIISH plants in their own homes.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	15	9.8
Agree	21	13.7
Neutral	9	5.9
Disagree	86	56.2
Strongly Disagree	22	14.4
Total	153	100.0

Table 25 concludes that 9.8 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that those who grow or produce drugs themselves are facilitators that work on small scale like growing marijuana, locally called HASHIISH, at their place of residence. Another 13.7 per cent concurred with this opinion. Conversely, 56.2 and 14.4 percent of the respondents disagreed with this statement respectively. The percentage of those who were neutral on this subject was only 5.9%. Thus, a considerable majority of the respondents (70.6) do not agree that the role of drug companies to import is that of illegally dealing drugs in a

small scale like the planting of marijuana, locally referred to as HASHIISH, in their homes.

Table 26

Drug import companies are of illicit drugs by smuggling; they use their knowledge of the import process to hide illegal drugs in shipments of legal goods or to bypass customs inspections.	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	28	18.3
Agree	68	44.4
Neutral	26	17.0
Disagree	21	13.7
Strongly Disagree	10	6.5
Total	153	100.0

Table 26 above shows that 18.3% of the respondents strongly believed that drug import companies are a part of smuggling illicit drugs. Also, 44.4 percent of them shared this notion. On the other hand, 13.7 and 6.5 per cent of the respondents responded with disagreement, and strong disagreement on this issue, and only 17 per cent responded with a neutral stand. This indicates, therefore, that 62.7 percent of the respondents who answered the Article indicated that the drug import companies are the ones involved in smuggling illegal drugs.

Findings

Refereeing in Table 1, the target population is proportionately represented by the sample distribution spread among the four districts that have been chosen in Mogadishu. The highest number of respondents were provided in Abdi-Aziz district (n=53, 34.6%), Boondheere (n=44, 28.8%), Waaberi (n=34, 22.2%), and Hodan (n=22, 14.4%).

Stratified random sampling technique used ensured proportional representation based on the target population size of each district with sample of between 22-53 respondents. This method makes the results more generalizable to the Banadir region, as it allows to include the peculiarities of each district, socioeconomic state, security issues, and patterns of drug abuse. Consequently, the research offers an in-depth insight into the problem in Mogadishu.

In the first objective in this study that talks about factors that Lead to the proliferation of drug abuse. Respondents were to establish the major factors that have led to the spread of drug abuse in the Somali society. Despite the variety of views voiced, many of them (87.6 percent) named the high rate of unemployment among Somali youth as the most relevant factor. Such discoveries put socioeconomic hardship as a decisive cause of drug abuse.

Major Sources of Drug trafficking, which is he second objective the respondents widely rejected the production of drug as a major source in Somalia. Rather, a massive majority of the opinions were that the most significant role is played by external entry points. The seaports and border crossings were cited by 95.4 percent of the respondents as the most important facilitators of drug

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trafficking, with these cited as strategic ports of entry of illicit substances.

While the third objective is the Necessary Solutions to the Drug Abuse, the views of the respondents regarding these ideas were divided but there were two strategies that were supported majority. Most (82.4) of them said that job opportunity, free education and recreational opportunities offered to young people is an essential preventative strategy. Besides, 62.1% believed that imposing higher taxes on imported drugs would be a deterrent.

In accordance of the Objective 4, Prevalence By Demographics and Locations, Perceptions were examined on the most impacted places and population of drug abuse were investigated. Most of them (77.1) compared bars and hotels as the most common place whereas schools and educational institutions were not seen as heavily affected. Concerning the demographics, there was a clear agreement on the fact that the most prevalent drug abusers are people aged 15-25. There was a split with regards to the 25-40 age group and most people could not agree that above 40 is always involved.

The fifth Objective that is the important intermediaries of the Illicit Drug Trade. Respondents were able to name the key players in the illegal drug business in Somalia. Most of them gave important roles to the Somali drug cartels (68.6%) and to the organized crime groups and import companies (62.7%). The presence of corrupt officials or the presence of the individuals involved in small operations were less agreed upon.

The last Objective that focused drugs and Peace and Stability. The study examined the perceived outcomes of drug abuse on peace and stability of the society. A large number of the respondents identified a direct relation between drug abuse and violent crime. In particular, 85.6% related drug abuse to murder and robbery, and 81% to sexual assault, theft, violence, and general social unrest. These results indicate the definite understanding of drug abuse as a serious threat to the safety of the population.

Conclusion

This study gives empirical data that unemployment among youths is seen as one of the main causes of drug abuse and poor border and seaport controls as the main enablers of drug trafficking in Somalia.

The results pinpoint Somalia drug cartels and organized crime as one of the significant participants in the illegal business and youth in the age range of 15-25 as the most vulnerable population that often gathers in bars and hotels.

The study confirms a high perceived relationship between drug abuse and the loss of peace and stability in the form of high levels of violent crimes including

murder, robbery, and sexual assault. Such conclusions provide factual guidance to policy makers, the police and civil society organizations in coming up with effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Recommendations of the study

In accordance with the findings, we can give the following recommendations

1. Disrupt Trafficking Networks- government intensified efforts should be made to locate, attack, and bring to book drug trafficking networks. This involves making special investments in training, modern technology and facilities that should be available to law enforcers to help increase their capability to intercept drug consignments and high-level drug traffickers.
2. Border Security- this is an urgent need to enhance security at every entry point especially at the seaports and land borders. This includes continuous improvement of infrastructure, implementation of non-intrusive inspection technology, capacity and integrity enhancement of border staff.
3. Increase International Cooperation- build and enhance relationships with neighboring nations and global organizations with the aim of sharing intelligence, coordinating inter-border efforts, and joining forces to counteract transnational drug cartels.

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Ethics and consent statement

The study adhered to the ethical standards of the journal of Social Science. All procedures involving human participants complied with institutional ethical guidelines. Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Participants were informed of the research purpose, the voluntary nature of participation, and their right to withdraw at any time without consequence. To maintain confidentiality and protect respondent identities, all personal identifiers were anonymized and data securely stored.

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