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CURBING GOSKOLO USE BY YOUTHS; A PANACEA FOR ACHIEVING PEACE, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The study examined "curbing goskolo use by youths a panacea for achieving peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria". It was premised on the rising prevalence of goskolo use among Nigerian youths, which has become a major threat to peace, security, and sustainable development. Goskolo is a locally brewed psychoactive concoction containing alcohol, cannabis, codeine, tramadol, and other toxic substances has become a widespread coping mechanism for economically and socially marginalized youths. The study was guided by four research questions and employed a descriptive survey design, Data were elicited by means of a researcher-developed questionnaire and key informant interviews. Data were collected from a sample of 120 respondents across selected communities and analyzed using mean scores and standard deviations. Findings revealed that goskolo use significantly undermines peace by fueling violence, disrupting social trust, and weakening community cohesion. It also contributes to increased crime rates, cultism, and insecurity, while eroding the pillars of sustainable development through school dropouts, youth unemployment, and family disintegration. Respondents affirmed the effectiveness of community awareness campaigns, youth empowerment programmes, rehabilitation services, and strengthened law enforcement as key strategies for intervention. It was recommended among other things that the institutionalization of youth-focused rehabilitation, inclusive education, skill-building Programmes, and stronger regulatory frameworks can help build a drug-free society capable of sustaining peace and development. The study concludes therefore that curbing goskolo use among youths can help achieve peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria but requires a holistic, multi-sectoral approach that addresses the root causes of drug abuse.
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Keywords: Goskolo, Intervention strategies, Peace, Security, Sustainable development, and Youth.

Introduction

The rising incidence of substance abuse among Nigerian youths has become a national emergency, particularly in urban centers across Northern Nigeria such as Jos, Plateau State. Among the most commonly abused substances is Goskolo, a highly intoxicating, locally brewed mixture composed of fermented herbs, alcohol, cannabis, tramadol, codeine, and other toxic chemicals. This lethal cocktail,

known for its low cost and powerful psychoactive effects, has gained widespread use among disadvantaged youths who seek temporary relief from poverty, trauma, and unemployment. As Yusuf and Danjuma (2021) observed, the rising consumption of Goskolo among young people is not merely an indicator of economic hardship, but also a symptom of deeper structural neglect and social disintegration.

Goskolo is typically produced in informal, unregulated environments often in slums, abandoned buildings, and underserved communities. Its composition is rarely consistent, depending on the availability of substances, but commonly results in harmful combinations that can lead to hallucinations, erratic behaviour, mental breakdown, and in some cases, fatal overdoses (Jatta, 2021). Despite these risks, goskolo remains accessible due to its affordability, the weak enforcement of drug regulations, and widespread peer influence. As Abdullahi and Umar (2020) observed, many of these neglected neighborhoods have become hotspots for illegal drug use and trade, with vulnerable youths becoming both victims and perpetrators of this cycle. Eze and Okonkwo (2022) similarly emphasized that the absence of mental health infrastructure and youth-focused interventions contributes significantly to the rise in such destructive coping mechanisms.

It is important to note that Goskolo is not unique to Plateau State or even to Northern Nigeria. Across various parts of Nigeria and the West African sub-region, similar drug concoctions exist under different local names but with equally devastating effects. In Southern Nigeria, a comparable substance is known as Monkey Tail, a mixture of local gin (ogogoro) with cannabis or tramadol. Particularly in the South-West Nigeria, variants such as Skushies and Lamba are popular; these are cocktails of codeine, Rohypnol, tramadol, and flavored drinks, often taken at parties or in ghettos (Adebayo & Folarin, 2021). While in the South-East Nigeria, *Mkpuru Mmiri* commonly referring to methamphetamine is another dangerously abused substance among youths. Similarly, in Ghana, a notorious local brew known as *Akpeteshie* is sometimes laced with drugs for enhanced intoxication, while in Sierra Leone, a mixture called *Kush* (a combination of synthetic cannabinoids and chemicals) is increasingly widespread among urban youth (Mensah & Jalloh, 2020). In The Gambia, *Jamba*—a potent variant of marijuana often combined with pharmaceutical substances—has become a growing concern for public health authorities, with emerging reports linking its use to cognitive impairment and youth violence (Camara & Sillah, 2022; Jatta, 2021).

These regional equivalents of goskolo highlight the growing transnational dimension of youth substance abuse in West Africa (Okonkwo, 2020). Though the names and precise compositions differ, the underlying causes (which include poverty, unemployment, trauma, peer pressure, and systemic neglect) remain consistent across borders. This trend signals the urgent need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral response including public health education, community rehabilitation programmes, youth empowerment initiatives, and stricter regulation of pharmaceutical and alcohol sales. Without decisive intervention, the continued proliferation of substances like Goskolo, Monkey Tail, Skushies, and Kush threatens not only

individual lives but also the long-term stability of communities and nations across West Africa (Mensah & Jalloh, 2020).

Thus, the troubling trend has been directly linked to a rise in violent crime, youth involvement in political thuggery, cultism, and community unrest. Consequently, goskolo-addicted youths continue to pose threats to community peace, undermine local economies, and weaken the overall social fabric. More worrisome is the fact that these consequences are not just short-term disruptions but long-term setbacks to peacebuilding, national security, and sustainable development. Governmental and non-governmental efforts to address the issue of goskolo use by youths include, public awareness campaigns, anti-drug education, and enforcement actions by agencies like the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). Some community-based organizations and faith-based groups have also initiated rehabilitation and counseling programmes. However, these interventions remain largely reactive, uncoordinated, and under-resourced (Okonkwo, 2019) which made them unable to address the challenge succinctly. The absence of a holistic, youth-centered, and development-driven approach continues to hinder long-term progress.

The unchecked use of Goskolo has significant implications for peace and security in Jos and similar communities. Youths under the influence are frequently implicated in violent crimes, political thuggery, cultism, and armed robbery. Mohammed and Adamu (2022) argued that many security breaches in urban neighborhoods can be traced to drug abuse, particularly in areas where drug use is normalized and enforcement is weak. Drug-addicted youths become easy tools in the hands of criminal networks, contributing to widespread insecurity and eroding trust in law enforcement and governance structures. Beyond insecurity, the societal consequences of Goskolo use undermine the broader goals of sustainable development. When youths (who constitute the productive backbone of the nation) are consumed by addiction and crime, the potential for innovation, economic growth, and nation-building will be lost. Therefore, if the problem of goskolo abuse is not urgently addressed, its continued use will not only compromise the well-being and future of Nigerian youths but will also perpetuate cycles of violence, poverty, and underdevelopment.

Communities overwhelmed by drug-related violence experience disruption in education, business, and social life, creating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment (Abdullahi & Umar, 2020). There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without addressing root causes like youth disempowerment and drug abuse (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2015). It is against this background that the study is designed to examine how curbing Goskolo use by youths can serve as a strategic pathway toward achieving peace, security, and sustainable development in the nation.

Abuse of Goskolo and its Dangers on Youth

Goskolo, a locally brewed psychoactive substance, has emerged as one of the most commonly abused drugs among youths in various urban centers of Northern Nigeria, particularly in areas like Jos, Kano, and Kaduna. It is typically produced from a combination of cheap, easily accessible, and often harmful substances such as fermented herbs, ethanol, cannabis, codeine syrup, tramadol, and energy drinks. The ingredients are mixed without regulation, resulting in a highly potent and unpredictable concoction (Yusuf & Danjuma, 2021). Unlike conventional drugs that may have some pharmacological oversight, Goskolo is homemade and unregulated, making its consumption extremely hazardous. The popularity of Goskolo among youths is largely attributed to its affordability and accessibility, especially in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Youths facing social and economic hardships often turn to Goskolo for temporary relief or as a means of social conformity within peer groups. According to Ibrahim and Bello (2020), many of the users are unemployed school dropouts who lack positive engagement and are vulnerable to addiction and social manipulation.

The dangers of Goskolo use on youths are profound. Physiologically, it can lead to acute mental health issues such as hallucinations, paranoia, psychosis, and in extreme cases, permanent brain damage or death. Psychologically, users often experience reduced cognitive function, aggression, and emotional instability (Mohammed & Adamu, 2022). Socially, Goskolo use is strongly associated with increased crime rates, street violence, cultism, and conflict with law enforcement. Addicted youths are frequently involved in acts of robbery, assault, and political thuggery, threatening not only public safety but also long-term social development (Olofinbiyi & Singh, 2020).

Moreover, the use of Goskolo contributes to the breakdown of educational and moral structures. Many addicted youths abandon school, become estranged from family, and lose the discipline required for productive living; thus, Okonkwo (2019) emphasized that the effects of such drug abuse extend beyond individual users to destabilize communities, perpetuate poverty, and obstruct development initiatives. In essence, Goskolo represents more than a public health crisis; it is a catalyst for youth delinquency, insecurity, and societal decay. The literature consistently underscores the need for integrated strategies that combine drug education, youth empowerment, law enforcement, and community rehabilitation to combat its spread and mitigate its damaging effects on society.

Goskolo Use by Youths as a Threat to Peace in Communities

The increasing abuse of Goskolo by youths has become a major disruptor of peace in many Nigerian communities, particularly in urban centers already vulnerable to social tension. Goskolo, being a cheap and highly intoxicating substance, often induces erratic and violent behaviour among users, leading to frequent clashes, domestic violence, and gang-related conflicts. According to Edeh and Opara (2020),

communities with high rates of drug abuse among youths tend to experience more episodes of civil unrest and communal breakdowns. Youth involvement in Goskolo consumption undermines peaceful coexistence by fuelling social disorder, reducing trust among residents, and heightening the risk of spontaneous violence. Nwachukwu (2021) observed that substance abuse is one of the leading contributors to youth-led disruptions in peacebuilding processes, especially in marginalized urban areas. Therefore, when drug-induced aggression becomes normalized in certain neighborhoods, community institutions such as vigilante groups, religious organizations, and schools struggle to maintain order.

Also, the presence of drug-addicted youths in communities discourages social participation and investment, as residents often feel unsafe and disconnected. As noted by Okafor and Ezeh (2019), sustainable peace cannot be achieved in environments where youths are both the victims and agents of instability through drug abuse. The unchecked use of Goskolo not only jeopardizes individual well-being but also erodes the foundations of community peace and collective progress.

Goskolo Use and Sustainable Development

The persistent abuse of Goskolo among youths presents a serious barrier to achieving sustainable development in Nigerian communities. As a toxic, locally brewed substance, Goskolo not only affects the health of users but also undermines their potential to contribute meaningfully to economic, social, and environmental progress. Young people who fall into drug addiction are often disconnected from education, unemployable, and vulnerable to exploitation. According to Audu and Tanko (2021), substance abuse among youths leads to a loss of human capital, which is critical for driving innovation, productivity, and long-term development. One of the major pillars of sustainable development is the empowerment of young people through quality education, decent work, and civic participation. However, Goskolo addiction disrupts this trajectory by increasing school drop-out rates, weakening mental capacity, and reducing economic engagement. As youths become trapped in cycles of addiction and dependency, they are less likely to acquire the skills and values necessary for nation-building (Agbaje & Lawal, 2020). This hinders progress towards key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Furthermore, communities heavily impacted by drug abuse often face increased public health costs, reduced investment in development infrastructure, and weakened social institutions. As Okon and Itodo (2022) argue, any society where a significant portion of the youth population is incapacitated by drug addiction cannot make meaningful progress in poverty reduction, education reform, or community resilience. In general, the widespread use of goskolo among youths obstructs the realization of sustainable development by depleting the productive capacity of young people and destabilizing the institutions needed for long-term societal growth.

Theoretical Framework

The study is based on the Social Disorganization Theory by Shaw and McKay (1942). The theory explains that crime and deviant behaviours are more common in communities with poverty, frequent movement of people, ethnic differences, and weak social institutions. When important structures like families, schools, churches, and community groups break down, the ability of the community to guide and control youth behaviour is weakened.

The theory highlights that areas with poor housing, lack of jobs, and weak community control often become places where drug abuse, violence, and other forms of misconduct thrive. In such communities, people struggle to work together to teach and uphold positive values. As a result, negative behaviours become common, especially among young people who grow up without role models or proper support.

The study is based on the following principles, namely:

1. Weak families, poor schools, and ineffective religious systems lead to poor guidance for youths.
2. Poverty and joblessness create frustration, pushing many youths into drug and alcohol use.
3. Disconnected communities find it hard to fight issues like drug abuse.
4. Bad habits and values are passed down through generations, making crime and drug use seem normal.

The Social Disorganization Theory is well-suited for the present study, which focuses on stopping Goskolo use among youths as a way to achieve peace, security, and sustainable development. This is because goskolo, a cheap and harmful local drink, is common in poor communities where youths lack care, education, and job opportunities. In such settings, drug use becomes a way of life. From this theoretical perspective, it shows that the problem of goskolo is not just personal but social. Tackling it requires stronger families, better community leadership, job creation, and youth programmes that will build a peaceful and secure society.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design to investigate the impact of Goskolo use among youths and explore strategies for curbing it to promote peace, security, and sustainable development in Jos, Plateau State. The research was conducted in Jos North Local Government Area, focusing on six communities known for high incidences of youth drug use: Kabong, Angwan Rogo, Bauchi Road, Tudun Wada, Gangere, and Congo Russia. Respondents included purposively selected youths, youth leaders, men, women, religious leaders, and community leaders, chosen for their insight into the issue. For quantitative data, a total of 120 respondents were drawn, 20 from each community. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled *Goskolo Use and Community Stability Questionnaire (GUCSQ)*,

which covered causes, effects, and control measures. For qualitative data, twelve key informant interview (with four lead questions related to the topic under study) were also conducted two at each of the selected communities under the study to enrich the findings. Thus the population was 132. The instrument was validated by three experts, and a pilot test yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.82. Trained assistants administered the tools directly to respondents. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentage, while qualitative responses from focus groups were thematically interpreted to support and clarify the survey results which gave more credence to the findings.

Results

Research Question 1: What is the effect of Goskolo use among youths on peace in communities within Jos, Plateau State?

Table 1: Effect of Goskolo Use among Youths on Peace in Communities

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	N	MEAN	STD	REMARK
1	Goskolo use by youths contributes to frequent conflicts in this community.	50	40	20	10	120	3.08	0.95	Agree
2	Drug-induced violence has disrupted peaceful coexistence among residents.	60	35	15	10	120	3.21	0.96	Agree
3	Communities with high goskolo use experience reduced social trust.	45	45	20	10	120	3.04	0.93	Agree
4	Goskolo users are often involved in communal disputes and unrest.	48	42	20	10	120	3.07	0.95	Agree
5	The presence of drug-using youths weakens peace-building efforts in the community.	55	40	15	10	120	3.17	0.94	Agree

Data in Table 1 show that all five items recorded mean scores above 3.00 **(**ranging from 3.04 to 3.21), indicating a strong agreement among respondents that goskolo use negatively affects community peace. Respondents perceived that drug-related behaviours among youths contribute to conflicts, disrupt social trust, and weaken peace-building efforts. Also, the **s**tandard deviations were moderate (around 0.93–0.96), suggesting a fair level of consensus in opinions among the respondents. Based on the data, it is evident that respondents are of the opinion that goskolo use by youths have effects on peace in communities.

From the focus-group discussion, the discussants made the following responses regarding the effect of goskolo use by youths on peace. A youth leader from Angwan Rogo stated, *"Goskolo has turned many peaceful youths into violent threats; we no longer enjoy community peace."*

In the same vein, a woman from Kabong remarked, *"We live in fear every evening because drugged boys often cause fights and harass passersby." And a* community elder in Tudun Wada said, *"Families are divided and neighbour avoid each other due to the behaviour of addicted youths."* It is evident that the responses of discussants are in tandem with the findings from the questionnaire that goskolo use affects peace in communities.

Research Question 2: How does goskolo use among youth impact security, particularly in relation to crime and social unrest?

Table 2: Effect of Goskolo Use by Youth on Security in Relation to Crimes and Social Unrest

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	N	MEAN	STD	REMARK
6	Youths under the influence of goskolo are more likely to engage in criminal acts, like theft, robbery, etc.	58	40	15	7	120	3.24	0.89	Agree
7	Goskolo abuse increases the risk of gang activities and cultism.	55	45	15	5	120	3.25	0.83	Agree
8	Most reported thefts and assaults in this area involve drug-using youths.	52	48	15	5	120	3.23	0.82	Agree
9	Drug abuse makes youths vulnerable to being recruited into violent groups.	50	50	15	5	120	3.21	0.82	Agree
10	Goskolo use is a major factor behind insecurity in this community as youths under the influence of goskolo engage in violence.	60	40	10	10	120	3.25	0.92	Agree

Evidences presented in Table 2 show that mean scores of items 6-10 ranged from 3.17 to 3.21**,** reflecting broad agreement **t**hat goskolo use is closely linked to increased crime, cultism, and insecurity. The findings suggest that respondents view drug abuse as a major contributor to the vulnerability of youths to criminal recruitment and disturbances. In the same vein, standard deviations were slightly below 1.00, indicating consistency in responses and a general acknowledgment of the security threats posed by drug use. It can then be adduced from the table that goskolo use by youths poses security threat to communities.

During the key informant interview when asked....."can you share your observations or experiences on how Goskolo use has contributed to crime, violence, or insecurity in this area? In response, a youth leader from Congo Russia stated, *"Most of the robberies here are linked to goskolo boys looking for money to buy more." Similarly, a* religious leader from Gangere noted, *"Those behind cult clashes and street*

violence are usually those high on goskolo." A trader in Bauchi Road added, *"Many shop owners close early now because drugged youths cause trouble regularly."* The excerpts go to confirm the results from the questionnaire that goskolo use by youths is a threat to security in the communities.

Research Question 3: In what ways does goskolo use affect sustainable development in areas such as education, employment, and community well-being?

Table 3: Effect of Goskolo Use by Youths on Sustainable Development

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	N	MEAN	STD	REMARK
11	Goskolo addiction causes many youths to drop out of school.	54	44	15	7	120	3.21	0.93	Agree
12	Drug-using youths are less likely to be gainfully employed.	52	46	13	9	120	3.19	0.92	Agree
13	Goskolo use reduces the productivity of young people in this area.	50	48	17	5	120	3.19	0.89	Agree
14	Communities affected by drug abuse struggle to attract development programmes.	48	50	16	6	120	3.16	0.91	Agree
15	The widespread use of goskolo hampers social and economic progress.	56	42	12	10	120	3.20	0.95	Agree

From Table 3, it could be seen that all items had mean scores above 3.15, pointing to strong agreement **t**hat goskolo use undermines sustainable development. Respondents associated drug use with school dropouts, unemployment, low productivity, and hindered social and economic progress. Similarly, standard deviation**s** (which range from between 0.89 and 0.95) indicate a moderate level of agreement**,** with most respondents holding similar views. This simply means that respondents are of the agreement that goskolo use by youths have bad effect on sustainable development.

Research Question 4: What strategies can be employed to effectively curb goskolo use among youths in order to promote peace, security, and sustainable development?

Table 4: Strategies to Curb Goskolo Use among Youths

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	N	MEAN	STD	REMARK
16	Community awareness campaigns can help reduce goskolo use among youths.	58	42	17	3	120	3.27	0.88	Agree
17	Providing skills training and jobs can discourage youth drug abuse.	55	48	15	2	120	3.25	0.87	Agree
18	Religious and traditional leaders should be involved in drug control efforts.	52	53	10	5	120	3.23	0.86	Agree
19	Rehabilitation and counseling centers are essential for helping addicted youths.	50	47	15	8	120	3.21	0.85	Agree

20	Strengthened law enforcement can reduce the supply and use of goskolo.	54	44	12	10	120	3.21	0.91	Agree

Data in table 4 reveal that mean scores for all five strategy-related items ranged from 3.21 to 3.27, showing widespread endorsement of intervention strategies such as awareness campaigns, job creation, religious/traditional involvement, counseling, and law enforcement. In the same vein, the standard deviations were relatively low (around 0.85 to 0.91), reflecting a high level of agreement on the effectiveness of these strategies among respondents. It can then be concluded that all the strategies suggested are seen to be viable to curb goskoo use by youths.

Regarding the question… **"**What efforts by families, community leaders, religious institutions, or government have been made to address goskolo use, and how effective have they been"? A youth coordinator in Bauchi Road said, *"Some churches tried organizing drug talks, but they didn't continue."* In the same vein, a community leader in Gangere mentioned, *"We involved the police, but the dealers still operate freely."* Also, a woman and a mother in Congo Russia shared, *"Parents talk to their children, but without rehab centers, we are helpless."* The excerpts rm the key informant interviews confirm that rehabilitation and use of the law enforcement agents are good strategies that could help in curbing goskolo use among youths.

Discussion

The findings of the study revealed a strong consensus among respondents that goskolo use among youths significantly undermines peace, security, and sustainable development. This is evident in both the quantitative and qualitative data. The first objective examined the effect of Goskolo use on peace in communities. Responses showed that drug-induced aggression has led to frequent conflicts, fear, and broken relationships. The KIIs reinforced this, with participants reporting that the presence of drug-using youths often results in community tension and disrupted social harmony. These findings are in line with Mohammed and Adamu (2022) who argued that drug-addicted youths become easy tools in the hands of criminal networks, contributing to widespread insecurity and eroding trust in law enforcement and governance structures.

Regarding the impact on security, the study established that goskolo use is strongly linked to increased youth involvement in criminal activities such as robbery, cultism, and violence. The views shared during KIIs confirmed this pattern, indicating that most violent incidents in the studied areas involved youths under the influence of Goskolo. This supports existing literature such as, Abdullahi and Umar (2020) who observed, many of these neglected neighbourhoods have become hotspots for illegal drug use and trade, with vulnerable youths becoming security threats to residents in the neighbourhoods.

The third objective focused on goskolo use and sustainable development. The study found that goskolo use contributes to school dropouts, youth unemployment, and family disintegration which are factors that collectively hinder educational progress, economic productivity, and community health. Both survey results and focus group responses affirmed that the social cost of drug abuse is a barrier to long-term development and this is in consonance with Agbaje and Lawal (2020) when he lamented that as youths become trapped in cycles of addiction and dependency, they are less likely to acquire the skills and values necessary for nation-building and it will affect sustainable development in the long run. Finally, the findings highlighted several strategies for curbing goskolo use. Participants agreed that youth-focused interventions such as skills acquisition, employment opportunities, religious mentorship, and community-based rehabilitation are essential. The qualitative data underscored the need for coordinated efforts involving families, religious institutions, law enforcement, and civil society.

Conclusion

Goskolo use by youths poses a multidimensional threat to the stability and growth of communities in Jos North. It fuels conflict, increases insecurity, and obstructs sustainable development. The integration of both quantitative and qualitative findings confirms that addressing the Goskolo menace is not just a health or moral issue, but a critical step toward achieving peace, public safety, and social advancement. The study concludes that effective intervention must be holistic, inclusive, and rooted in local realities.

However, addressing the menace of goskolo use among youths requires a collaborative and proactive strategy that targets the root causes of drug abuse while promoting social stability and development. Effective control of goskolo use is not only a public health imperative but also a strategic pathway to achieving peace, security, and sustainable development in affected communities. One of the most effective approaches is community-based drug education and awareness campaigns. These initiatives should target schools, religious centers, markets, and transport hubs to sensitize young people and parents about the dangers of goskolo. As noted by Bassey and Ndukwe (2021), culturally sensitive and youth-centered awareness programmes have the potential to reduce demand for harmful substances by reshaping attitudes and strengthening community resilience.

Youth empowerment through education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship is another vital strategy. Many young people turn to goskolo out of frustration, poverty, and idleness. Providing access to education, skills acquisition, and employment opportunities can offer alternatives to drug use and redirect youth energy into productive ventures. According to Anyaele and Udo (2020), empowering youths with economic opportunities reduces their vulnerability to drug use and crime, and enhances their role as agents of peace and development.

Strengthening law enforcement and regulation will equally help. Local authorities and national agencies like the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) need to intensify surveillance, disrupt supply chains, and prosecute producers, distributors and sellers of goskolo. However, this must be complemented by rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for affected youths. Ezeani (2022) emphasized that punitive approaches alone are insufficient; a combination of enforcement and rehabilitation creates a more sustainable pathway to recovery and social reintegration.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration is equally important. Religious leaders, traditional rulers, civil society groups, health practitioners, and educators must work together to create a united front against drug abuse. Community-driven monitoring systems, peer mentoring, and local rehabilitation centers can increase access to help and reduce stigma. In the view of Ogunyemi and Fatai (2019), peace and development can only thrive when communities take collective ownership of drug-related challenges and solutions. Curbing goskolo use requires a holistic strategy that integrates education, empowerment, enforcement, and community engagement. These combined efforts will not only reduce drug abuse but also will contribute to a peaceful and secure environment, laying the foundation for inclusive and sustainable development.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Community Education and Awareness: Targeted campaigns should be launched in local languages to sensitize youths and parents about the dangers of Goskolo use.
2. Youth Empowerment: Government and NGOs should establish vocational training centers and job creation initiatives in drug-prone areas. More so **s**takeholders including schools, religious bodies, local governments, and youth organizations should develop a coordinated strategy for long-term prevention and reintegration.
3. Rehabilitation Services: Establish accessible drug rehabilitation centers within Jos North with support from health and social welfare agencies.
4. Strengthened Law Enforcement**:** Security agencies should intensify efforts to disrupt the supply chains of Goskolo and prosecute dealers; while on the hand religious, traditional and community leaders should take active roles in mentoring and monitoring at-risk youths.

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