

# Review of: "Factors Influencing Youth Drug Abuse: A Review Study"

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As someone who has done research in this field, I found this article to be quite informative and useful. It tries to make a very complex topic accessible by providing a bird's eye view of a pressing issue. However, in order to be more impactful I find that some areas could be strengthened. This would help readers to better understand what the authors are trying to achieve ultimately.

## Abstract

Topic: Good general opening but it could be important to mention the scope of the analysis: country, region, global?

Methodology: It is quite unclear if this is a scoping review, a systematic review, etc.

Inclusion of studies: It is very unlikely that only 18 documents were found after running a search on drug abuse unless a specific region or country is being investigated. PubMed yields thousands of results.

Conclusion: The last sentence might be clear to the scientific community but will be difficult to understand for a different type of audience which might be interested in this topic:

*"The most prevalent influencing factors identified are peer influence and inadequate parental or guardian care. Therefore, it is recommended that research on the factors influencing youth drug abuse should undergo specific scientific scrutiny to address the unique challenges and develop appropriate solutions."*

The work carried out by researchers who are also scientists needs to receive additional scientific scrutiny - Why? Quality? Flawed findings? A stronger conclusion is required here.

## Introduction

I commend the authors for not using stigmatizing language such as the term "addict".

- It would be important to clarify what is meant by youth: children, teenagers, young adults?
- A description of drugs would be useful for the reader: opiates? new psychoactive substances? Marijuana?
- Are there significant differences prevailing in developing versus developed contexts?

## Methodology

What were the research questions and how was the method selected accordingly?

*“The initial literature search was conducted through a desk survey of academic, policy, and practice websites, following a purposeful selection process.”*

- The authors appear to have followed an iterative qualitative approach (in analysis and included qualitative papers as well?) which is quite original for this type of research. Unfortunately, this does not provide enough information on the criteria used and the basis of the methodological decisions made to select or exclude data, scientific, policy papers, etc. For example why were policy websites examined if the study only focused on scientific papers? This dilutes the potential impact of their research by short-selling the approach used which sounds very vague as a result:

*“A combination of general Google search and saturation of articles in Google Scholar was employed to ensure the retrieved literature encompassed a wide range of topics related to factors influencing youth drug abuse.”*

## **The findings**

This section provides a good summary of the types of factors which emerged during the analysis and is again in line with qualitative analysis leading to typological results. However, I have some concerns about the definition of “drug abuse”: is it about uncontrolled addiction or consuming harmful substances for health or illegal consumption of pharmaceutical products ? Is controlled drug use for recreational use acceptable then?

## **Discussion**

Why is this section missing?

I believe some of the criticisms expressed previously could be tackled here but most importantly: what is this literature review contributing to the rest of the scientific community in the first place ? The following paragraph from the introduction could be further elaborated in this section:

*“To better understand the factors influencing youth drug abuse, this review acknowledges that no single factor contradicts another, as each was assessed with sufficient scrutiny. Consequently, the review examines the factors that influence drug abuse among young individuals and offers recommendations for curtailing this problem. The findings will provide researchers, policymakers, and decision-makers with practical solutions for drug abuse prevention and control.*