

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall this is a well written and interesting manuscript reviewing prior work surrounding correlates and causal influences of drug abuse among youths. The manuscript has areas of strength and weakness as indicated in more depth below, though the key area for improvement is the need to expand on what is already included within each section, as is convention within review studies such as this (see examples below).

Intro – Overall the introduction of this manuscript is well written and provides a succinct account of key statistics and global prevalence figures underpinning the problem of youth drug abuse. That said, the review of prior empirical literature here is sparse and doesn't persuasively build towards a clear study rationale. As such, the authors are advised to develop their review of prior literature further to such an extent that the rationale for this study (which also requires development) is clear and compelling. Effectively expand on the need and urgency for this work.

Methods and Findings– The authors explain that the paper adopts a 'thematic approach to the narrative review' though this needs expanding further and situating in the broader context of the methodological approach. Be clear about what exactly this means in practice and why this approach was adopted instead of more rigid alternatives such as a systematic literature review (SLR) or rapid evidence assessment (REA). The authors should also outline why only google scholar was searched and not other subscription and non-subscription based empirical databases, as is convention. Whilst none systematised searches were conducted within this review, the level of detail provided surrounding such search procedures was too brief overall. The authors are advised to review SLR's conducted by [Hudspith et al \(2022\)](#) and [Debowska et al \(2017\)](#) to examine the depth of discussion such papers included within their method and findings sections and expand accordingly within the current work. A stronger and more consistent summary of findings (making use of tabular data) would strengthen the presentation and robust nature of the results.

Discussion – The authors provide a list of recommendations and a conclusion but these should be embedded within a much more substantive discussion section where study limits (and strengths), implications and future research are expanded on as well as a more detailed and comprehensive list of recommendations.