

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article do address a relevant public health issue of great concern. A literature review is a good idea to bring all relevant information together to summarize the most relevant findings and reach conclusions that practitioners may use in clinical practice. Research gaps and recommendations for future research emerge from a literature review.

The literature review in this particular article requires a more rigorous method to ensure the conclusions are scientifically based. A recognised scientific method should be used. Seeing that the reviewers preferred to use grey literature as well, an integrative review could have been used to follow a proper method with replicable steps. The search did not use more than one databases with scientific literature such as EBSCOHost. Only Google and Google scholar were used. No parameters such as years of publication or inclusion criteria were specified to ensure inclusion of relevant publications with similar variables. There is no method specified through which quality of publications was ensured. The scientific methods used in the literature sources are not specified. Even if it is a report, and not research findings, it helps to mention such so that readers may understand if the findings are original or already interpreted by a particular report compiled by an organization. The data analysis method is not clear.

The findings list factors responsible, circumstances that contribute to youth drug abuse, risk factors, predisposing factors, personal factors, contributing factors and causes and effects. These themes/categories are not mutually exclusive, therefore the findings overlap, and similar issues are not grouped together under a heading that captures the core of the particular group of findings. It is therefore not possible to draw a meaningful conclusion from the findings. The settings of the research sources are not specified. Findings may be affected by different contexts, such as low-and-middle-income countries, African countries etc. where different circumstances and environments play a role in drug abuse causes. The findings are not integrated to bring results from different sources and contexts together so that some sort of interpretation or new insights are generated.

The article is easy to read, but unfortunately lacks well-integrated discussions.