

A substance is any psycho-active material, when taken by humans affects the mental faculties and changes the way of thinking, reasoning, judgement, behaviour and perception. High School adolescents of age 13 through 19 years abuse substances/drugs resulting into deleterious consequences.

World over approximately 2 billion people abuse alcohol and 76.3 million have developed disorders like dependence, it is approximated that people 15 years and above take 5L of pure alcohol of beer, wine and spirits (WHO., 2007). Worldwide abused substances like cannabis and alcohol pose a threat to human health due to different (psycho-active portion of cannabis is Tetrahydrocannabinol, ethanol in alcohol and over 4000 chemicals in cigarettes) active ingredients, affecting mental faculties resulting into mental illnesses, predisposing to lung cancer and other chest diseases, even cardiovascular derangements like increased heart rate and decreased blood pressure (NIDA., 2010). In Uganda, substance abuse has persistently become a menace and offending phenomena, among most adolescents and they abuse various substances. A study was conducted at Makobole High School, determining the influencing factors for substances/drugs abuse among the high school adolescents and substances abused. This study was conducted using a quantitative approach and data was collected at a point in time. The sample size of 280 adolescent students in Makobole High School was selected. Simple random sampling method was employed to determine a specific group of people for the participation. And quantitative data was obtained with help of a questionnaire.

The data was analyzed using SPSS version 16 and presentation of data was done using tables and pie charts. Pierson's chi-square was used to determine the correlation between variables of interest under the study ( $p < 0.05$ ). A large proportion reported to be using substances/drugs (70%). Social factors such as peer pressure greatly influenced the use of substances. Other factors such as individual and institutional factors also were found to have a significant correlation with substance /drugs abuse.