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## EFFECTS OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN KIAMBU: A CASE OF KIAMBAA SUB COUNTY

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### ABSTRACT

*This study investigated the effects of drug and substance use management practices on economic empowerment in Kiambu County, a County that continues to experience diminishing economic empowerment, especially among the young male folk, mainly due to increased drug and substance abuse. The following objectives were used as a guideline for the study: to assess the effect of drug and substance abuse prevention practices, to find out the impact of drug and substance abuse and law enforcement practices, and to assess the effect of drug and substance abuse Therapeutic management practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu. The study was anchored on self-efficacy Theory, Cohen Status Frustration Theory and Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy. A descriptive research design was adopted, and the composition of the target population was ward administrators, MAT caregivers, police officers, OC Crime, Deputy County Commissioner and National government administrative officers (NGAO) were sampled using stratified simple random sampling. Key informants were purposively selected. A total of 200 respondents were targeted, and a sample size of 67 was used to collect data using a structured questionnaire; for data analysis, inferential and descriptive methods were used for quantitative data; for the presentation of data, figures and tables were used by harnessing the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The study adopted a multivariate regression analysis. The study outcome indicated, and it shows, that drug and substance abuse management practices influence 30 per cent of economic empowerment in Kiambu County through the implementation of various mitigation practices by ward administrators, MAT caregivers, hospital administrators, National government administrative officers (NGAOs) and Police officers. Variables outside this model contribute the remaining 70 per cent. The model was, therefore, appropriate for inferential statistics. Economic empowerment increased when a single unit increased prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions. In conclusion, the joint effect of prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions is crucial for the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims. Recommendations included enhancing stakeholder collaboration and communication, including prevention program providers, law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and economic empowerment organizations.*

**Key Words:** Drug and Substance Abuse, Law Enforcement, Therapeutic Management, Empowerment

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## INTRODUCTION

A study conducted by the United Nations Office on Drug Control (UNODC, 2011) indicates that the illicit drug trade is worth \$870B. According to the annual global Gross Domestic Product GDP, this equals 1.5%, equivalent to 1.5%. By any standard, this revenue is much more than some of the world's largest multi-nations

In Kenya, Drug and substance abuse frequencies and related consequences have significantly increased in recent years, attracting huge attention from the government and non-state actors (Kipkemboi, 2013). Despite these efforts to regulate the production and consumption of substance and drug abuse, many Kenyans from across the society have continued to experience the negative effects of alcohol consumption. Kwambai & Kimutai (2017) observe that deaths related to the consumption and abuse of drugs are frightening. For example, illicit drink killed the following people in Kenya: 12 in Nairobi's Shauri Moyo Estate in April 2010; 5 in Thindigwa, Kiambu County, in July 2010; 23 in Kibera slums, Nairobi County, in August 2010 and in the same month 5 in Ngobit, Laikipia County (NACADA, 2011). In November 2010, at Mukuru Kwa Njenga and Mukuru Kaiyaba in Nairobi, illicit drinking resulted in 140 deaths and loss of sight

Psychoactive substance has been part and parcel of human civilisation such as in entertainment, celebrations, relaxation, medicine and day to day life such that psychoactive substances culture is synonymous to human culture. (Csiernik 2016). In fact, when you say “a drink”, it’s likely to be taken to mean an alcoholic drink. World over where drugs and substances are known, patterns of use and abstinence are prescribed in details. It has been recognized with time that various management practices regulating production, sell as well as consumption have been in existence. Drug and substance abuse is viewed as a medical problem by some management practices that requires medical interventions such as treatment. On the other hand, other management practices reflect the Victorian and prohibition-era notions which holds that drug and substance abuse is an indicative of moral decay and that drug and substance addicts are weak, lack will power, are deviants and should pay the price. (Dabaghi e t. Al. 2018). But even as the society endeavors to mitigate the problem, it would appear that society has simultaneously stomached and even supported the vice as citizens continue to be encouraged through manufacturing, marketing of some and advertisements to include a variety of recreational and therapeutic drugs (Goodstadt, 2015). Overall approaches concerning substance and drug use have changed considerable over the years, with many governments and organizations initiating and running strict substance and drug prevention programs (Wright, 2017). But even as many societies endeavor to moderate the problems associated with substance and drug use, it would appear that they have simultaneously stomached or even supported the vice, as citizens continue to be encouraged through manufacturing, marketing and advertisements to use a wide range of recreational and therapeutic drugs (Goodstadt, 2015).

In Kiambu County, drug and substance abuse has been one of the major debilitating threats to economy in the following ways: It has led to the high unemployment rate among the youths, and because of this there is little or no saving and consequently no investment. Also, drug and substance abuse has resulted to poor progression rates in learning institutions resulting to increase in dropout rates. This has resulted in the deteriorating security and increase in crime in the area. Youth abandon meaningful economic activities to join criminal gangs.

Kiambu County Annual Development Plan (2016) also points out that the health of people in the county has been affected by drug and substance abuse. People who abuse drugs are predisposed to several diseases including HIV/AIDS and suffered more injuries. In this regard, the research seeks to look into the effect of drug and substance use and management practices on the socio economic empowerment in the County of Kiambu, Kenya.

## Statement of the Problem

The number of NGOs, government departments as well as CBOs involved in drug abuse prevention has risen significantly over time but with no corresponding reduction of drug and substance abuse. According to Brass (2010), the number of NGOs grew 15-fold between 1991 and 2008, from about 400 to over 6000, and with sufficient funding derived from foreign sources. A very large proportion of these NGOs report engaging in capacity-building usually in form of group training classes, specifically targeting the youth in: HIV/AIDS prevention, behavioural modification, communication skills, independence, and occupational training are all connected to drug and alcohol misuse. With all these management practices in place, some stretching from the colonial period, drug and substance abuse has been rampant resulting to severe social, health and economic continues to cause (Chepkwony, Chelule & Barmao, 2013).

According to NACADA (2012) report, there has been an increase in alcohol consumption in the country since 2007. North Eastern region increasing with 5.4%, Nairobi 3.4%, Western 3.4% while Rift Valley with 3.2%. The earliest age of the first time use of alcoholic beverages too has gone down, ranging from 4-6yrs depending on the region. The most abused drugs are; Alcohol, Tobacco, Miraa, Bhang and injectable at ;3,293,495, 2,240,656, 1,106,830, 269,959 and 18,327 persons affected respectively (NACADA 2011).

Drug and substance misuse has been the subject of several research. For instance, Njoki (2013) investigated drug and substance misuse in secondary schools in Kiambu County and found that there are several variables that influence pupils to take drugs, with peer pressure, curiosity, and ignorance serving as the major drivers. Rono (2014) used a few Kenyan public and private colleges to do research on the effectiveness of drug and substance addiction prevention programmes. She discovered many socio-psychological, economic, and cultural elements that contribute to drug usage. In a study by Margaret (2019), it was found that the main barriers to both types of interventions were a lack of support from parents and teachers. In order to reduce marijuana and alcohol consumption among high school students in Kiambu County, the research examined the efficacy of counselling and non-counseling approaches. Ongwae's investigation into the reasons for and consequences of drug and alcohol addiction among pupils in Nairobi County's Starehe Sub-County. According to the study's results, peer pressure is a major factor in driving most students to misuse drugs and alcohol. To counter this threat, teachers should be included in the curriculum revision process.

Despite the existence of several drug and substance management approaches in Kiambu, which should, of course, benefit from and improve as a consequence of the many studies that are now available, the drug and substance problem there has not been under control. Instead, in many metropolitan areas, including Ruaka, there is a surge in the number of jobless youth, crime, drug and alcohol dens (both legal and illicit), the homeless, and the impoverished billionaires.

## Objectives of the Study

The following objectives will serve as a guide for this research;

- To evaluate the effect of drug and substance abuse prevention practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu County, Kenya.
- To establish the effect of drug and substance abuse law enforcement practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya.
- To assess the effect of drug and substance abuse Therapeutic management practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Economic Empowerment**

Each year, substance and drug abuse cause immense economic damage across the globe in areas of crime control, management of public health and safety, productivity and governance. All these are co-efficient in economic empowerment and smooth functioning societies. An understanding of the relationship between substance and drug abuse and development would, therefore, help develop management policies and practices that would reduce abuse and addiction and foster economic empowerment.

According to Babor et al. (2010), health and social harm from substance abuse arise in three significant ways: through the toxic effects on various body organs and tissues of the user, the development of substance dependence and intoxication. The available literature on the subject has identified over 200 health conditions that directly or indirectly undermine the achievement of the global Health Strategic Development Goals (SDG) targets.

According to research by Faller et al. (2016) and Goldstein (1985), drug and alcohol misuse can sometimes be the cause of crime. Drug users may conduct crimes, and the acute effects of narcotics may encourage violent behaviour or thievery. Drug users will also commit crimes to maintain their drug use and addiction (e.g. when they need to buy drugs but lack the money, which may result in robberies, burglaries, or fights between buyers and sellers over bad transactions). According to Esbec & Echebura, additional factors that affect drug use and crime include poverty, personality issues, social and cultural contexts, and relationships with other users (2016). Prostitution, assault, rape, theft, break-ins, and other unforeseen crimes are routinely committed. The existing literature discusses the connection between drugs and crime using three explanatory models: First, drug misuse contributes to crime. Second, criminality contributes to drug usage. Third, the connection is either coincidental or may be accounted for by a group of common reasons. (White & Gorman 2000; Boyum et al 2011; Caulkins & Kleiman 2011; White & Gorman 2000)

According to Florence et al. (2016), the US economy is expected to bear a total burden of \$78.5 billion. The expense of higher health care and drug misuse treatment accounts for more than one-third of this sum (\$28.9 billion). The public sector pays for around one-fourth of the cost of health care, drug rehab, and criminal justice expenses. Increased unemployment rates are anticipated to occur in the same age bracket as individuals who are most prone to use drugs and have drug issues in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. It is also impossible to dismiss estimates of productivity losses brought on by lower labour force participation.

According to Easton et al. (2016), the average weekly salary (ordinary + overtime) in New Zealand, for example, was \$1,066, or \$55,660 per year. The additional productivity losses suffered by those providing care for people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) who are subsequently unable to work in the paid labour force as a result of their caregiving or from ineffective or otherwise unnecessary spending in the education, health, or justice systems are not, however, considered in these estimates. Without the economic constraints caused by FASD, these funds might be used for other commercial and governmental expenditure initiatives that would benefit everyone in New Zealand.

### **Drug and Substance Abuse and Economic Empowerment**

#### **Drug and Substance abuse Prevention practices and Economic empowerment**

In a few Kenyan public and private institutions in 2014, Ronoh conducted research on the efficacy of drug and substance addiction prevention programs. The study's particular objectives were to determine the objectives of different levels of prevention programs and activities, implementation techniques, student participation in prevention activities, difficulties confronting prevention services, and elements that maintain drug addiction in universities. It was created to assess the success of drug usage prevention programs at a few Kenyan

institutions, both public and private. The theories of Self-efficacy and Ecological Systems provided the framework for this inquiry. A multi-stage sampling approach was used to choose 499 respondents, comprising 395 students and 104 social support providers. Data from two state institutions and two private universities in Kenya were gathered using a cross-sectional survey that included qualitative and quantitative techniques. The study's findings demonstrated that social, psychological, economic, and cultural factors all affect drug abuse and that the biggest challenges to effective implementation include poor implementation tactics, a lack of resources, and unfavourable student attitudes.

Gateri and Nyakwana conducted a study on the predisposing variables for drug and substance misuse among teenagers in Gachie, Kiambu County, Kenya (2018). On a sample of Gachie inhabitants who were willing to participate in the survey and were between the ages of 19 and 35, the study utilized a descriptive cross-sectional research methodology. A straightforward random sample approach was employed to get the 73 respondents. Structured questionnaires were used to gather data. According to the study's findings, juvenile substance misuse in Gachie, Kiambu County, was influenced by peer pressure, drug availability, and unemployment.

### **Drug and Substance Abuse Law enforcement practices and Economic empowerment**

A case review on the never-ending drug war: impediments to changing drug war policies was the subject of research by Scherlen (2012). The review clarified the continuation of the drug wars using the ideas of policy termination and prospect theory. The study demonstrated that prudent judgement and sound economic reasoning are insufficient to persuade legislators to change current policy. Certain aspects of the drug policy, the political climate at the time, as well as customary institutional and bureaucratic constraints all significantly impede efforts to put an end to the drug war. Views on the advantages and drawbacks of ending the drug war can cause snags. The paper concludes that before the drug war programme can be ended, a lot of things need to change.

Lutta performed research on how corruption and law enforcement employees affected Nairobi County's execution of alcohol and drug misuse regulations (2016). The research aimed to determine how much corruption is impeding Kenya's efforts to execute its drug and substance restrictions. This research aims to examine the connection between corruption and Kenya's drug and substance misuse laws. The study concentrated on the core concepts that affect how DSA policies are put into practice, such as resource allocation, the effectiveness of enforcement personnel, police officer readiness for duty and training, chiefs' and assistant chiefs' readiness for duty, and corruption in the form of bribery and extortion. Cross-sectional research was performed in the study to compare various demographic groups at a particular time using qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Questionnaires were used to collect data from randomly and consciously chosen groups for the research. Data was acquired and analyzed using SPSS utilizing questionnaires. The results showed that corruption impacts how DSA policies are implemented.

### **Substance and drug abuse Therapeutic management practices and Economic empowerment.**

Substance Abuse Treatment in Correctional vs Non-Correctional Settings: Analysis of Racial/Ethnic and Gender Differences is the title of the research by Camplain et al. (2018). National Survey on Drug Use and Health cross-sectional data were utilized to identify White, African American, and Hispanic individuals who had undergone drug addiction treatment in the preceding year (2002-2016). Using multiple logistic regression, the influence of gender and race/ethnicity on the relationship between different exposure factors and the treatment locus was studied. Even though drug addiction treatment programs are beneficial in the United States, few individuals use them, particularly women, African Americans, and Hispanics. People with drug addiction problems often interact with the criminal justice system, and African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately represented in this population. Due to the great demand for treatment, poor treatment uptake, and the link between drug usage and incarceration, correctional facilities are gradually filling the treatment gap by offering safety-net treatment programs.

In Nairobi County, Kalangi (2018) performed research on how patients who abuse alcohol and drugs access and use information resources, concentrating on the Asumbi Treatment Center, an approved rehabilitation facility in Nairobi Town. The objectives of the study included identifying the information needs of DSA patients in the rehabilitation centre, identifying the information-seeking behaviours of DSA patients, evaluating the current information services available to DSA patients, understanding how DSA patients use information, determining the obstacles DSA patients face when accessing and utilizing information and formulating recommendations for improving the delivery of information services to DSA patient. DSA patients and administrative personnel from the rehabilitation centre conducting a census were the respondents in a qualitative case study design. The results showed that DSA patients had specific information demands, including those related to behaviour modification, profession choice, business, sign language, and current events.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Self-Efficacy Theory (Bandura, 1986)**

This Theory is credited to Canadian psychologist Albert Bandura, born in Alberta in 1925. According to Bandura (1995, 2004), self-efficacy is the belief in one's ability to plan, carry out, and succeed in the actions necessary to handle impending events. Several health behaviour outcomes have been demonstrated to be predicted by self-efficacy, or confidence in one's abilities, according to other studies (Ormrod, 2003; Margolis & McCabe, 2006; Conner & Norman, 2009). According to Bandura (1977), one's self-beliefs about oneself and talents serve as a major foundation for self-efficacy. As a result, rather than what is objectively true, people base their emotional states and actions more on what they think. As a result, rather than what they are capable of doing, people's behaviour is frequently better predicted by the assumptions they hold about their capabilities. He contends that self-efficacy beliefs control how people use their knowledge and abilities. According to Bandura's thesis, developed preventative programs may or may not be used by various social strata in a community, which is a significant issue that might arise. The views and attitudes individuals hold regarding preventative initiatives' effect on their lives shape this illustrated circumstance.

The Theory of Planned Behaviors by Fishbein and Ajzen (2010) heavily references Bandura's theory. According to him, attitude refers to a person's tendency to react positively or adversely to an item, activity, individual, institution, or event. Zimmermann (2008) contends that a dynamic process that a person engages in while they strive toward a goal is a crucial component of the influence of attitude on self-regulation. It is desirable to receive feedback or reflection to modify and maintain behaviour management. According to the hypothesis, the environment may have a beneficial or harmful impact on how one regulates oneself. Effective self-regulation is challenging if the environment offers no social cues or feedback. This assertion suggests a correlating relationship between attitude and environmental dynamics.

Drug and substance abusers are likely to take advantage of deterrent initiatives if they give them any thought. The way drug and substance users conceptualize their underlying forces of self-efficacy influences both their progressive response and their participation in preventative efforts. According to the notion, the implementation and success of preventive initiatives are greatly influenced by the involvement of drug and substance users. According to self-efficacy, almost everyone can think of activities they want to do, impacts they would like to change, and objectives they would like to reach. However, not everyone will find this to be so straightforward.

Bandura (1977, 2004) asserts that a person's self-efficacy significantly affects managing objectives, responsibilities, and challenges. A strong sense of self-efficacy is associated with a more significant commitment to one's objectives and course of action. By arguing that one's capacity to dominate, rule, or meritoriously transform the environment relies on one's choices and actions, Bird, Conrad, Fremont, and Timmermans (2010) support the position. According to Luszczynska and Schwarzer (2005), self-efficacy

determines whether and how much effort will be put into changing one's health behaviour and how long that behaviour will be maintained in the face of challenges and disappointments.

West (2006) adds that cognitive biases, along with beliefs, prospects, self-efficacy, attributions, and attention, all contribute to the maintenance of addiction to his ideas on cognitive bias. Behaviour change occurs when a person can carry out a behaviour or when several other variables, such as perceived self-efficiency and perceived behavioural control, are met, according to Bartholomew et al. (2006). In order to ensure that the tactics and strategies being employed are in sync with student cognitive dynamics, it is crucial for preventative programs to access this information.

### **Cohen Status Frustration Theory**

In his research on criminal gangs, Cohen made the case that these groups tried to "substitute" their subcultures for society's accepted norms and values. He provided two straightforward ideas, "status frustration" and "response formation." The former (Status Frustration) mainly targeted young people from lower socioeconomic strata. It argues that when social realities and the rest of societal desired goals do not coincide, people become frustrated with the constraints and injustices they must contend with, as Albert Cohen endorsed this view (1955). He used it to convey how discouraged the working class feels about their ability to reach the same position as middle- or upper-class peers. According to the notion that society will always have results, Cohen's second principle, or "response formation," is reached. According to Cohen, reaction formation is the response to "status dissatisfaction." Young people from lower socioeconomic groups find themselves replacing the standards and ideals of their society with new ones. For example, disruptive behaviours such as competing to commit the most rapes or burglaries may take the role of working hard as the group's aim for respect.

Cohen maintains that the response to status frustration is a common reaction rather than an individual one, in contrast to Merton's strain theory. This idea explains why non-utilitarian crimes like graffiti, loitering, and joyriding are on the rise in most places with high rates of substance and drug usage. Although such activities do not benefit the perpetrator financially, they become significant to subculture members and provide easy access to achieving respect and prestige among the peer group. Although the working middle class was the context in which the theory was developed, it may still be applied to various societal processes regardless of class. In this instance, addiction may be able to provide the group with a sense of values and prestige that they are unable to obtain from the wider society, allowing them to adjust to their exclusion from it more effectively. Despite cultural expectations, the hypothesis may help to explain why and how certain people develop drug and alcohol addictions. Realistic substance and drug misuse management solutions may be built based on such in-depth information.

One's life may be lived without the restrictions of drug usage (Ellis, Dryden, & DiGiuseppe, 2015).

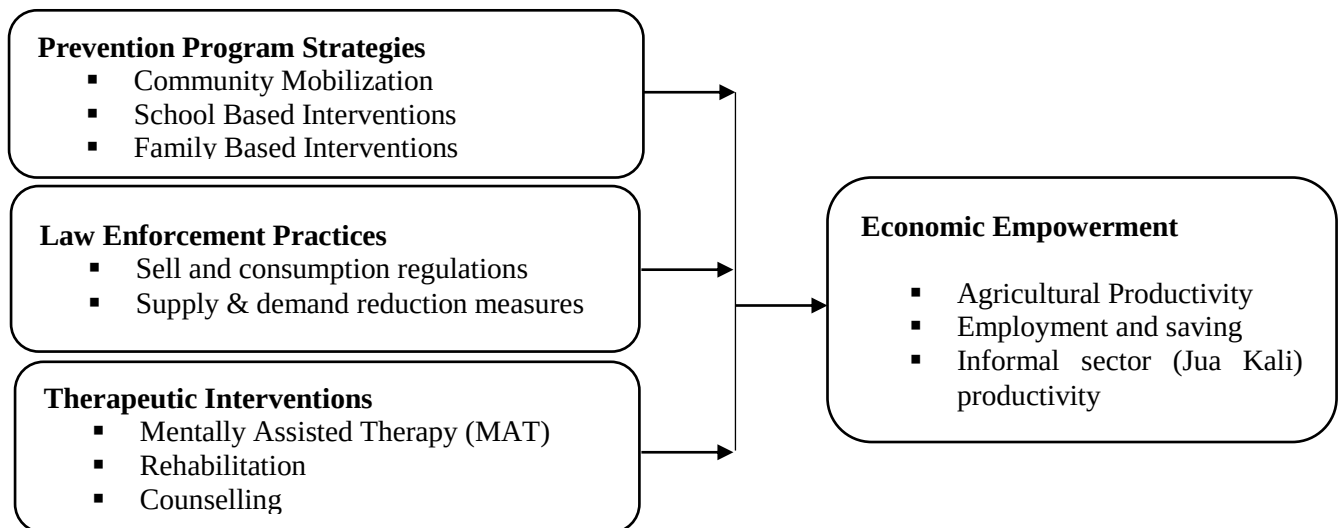
### **Therapy Logic Emotional Behavior Theory**

In 1955, Albert Ellis founded Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT). It is a theory, practice, and school of thought-based therapeutic framework. Rational emotive behaviour therapy, formerly known as rational therapy and rational emotive therapy, is an active-directive psychotherapy with philosophical and scientific underpinnings. The idea, by its proponent, seeks to identify emotional and social conflicts and problems and to assist people in leading happier lives. Each year, many people lose their lives to drug and alcohol addiction (Albert Ellis, Haper, & Powers, 2018). This academic claims that substance and drug misuse is defined as a persistent want to seek out drugs even when one is aware of the harm they might cause. According to the supporters of the need, hazardous chemicals' effects on the brain drive the desire.

REBT is a type of psychotherapy that encourages people to think differently to encourage positive behaviours and actions. Applying REBT helps a person get rid of undesired behaviours, stop addictive patterns, and work toward living a contented and joyful life. The idea also encourages the development of moral principles such

as strong approbation of one's personality and those of others (Ellis & Joffe, 2017). The decision to start consuming narcotics is often the result of several different causes. Risk factors influence a person's propensity for drug addiction, whereas protective factors work to reduce that risk. People can become addicted if protective elements are not appropriately applied, and even occasionally when they are. For those who are addicted, REBT may help alter their thought patterns, which will then alter their addictive behaviours. It takes more than just medicine and family support to stop relapses. Affected people may need to change their way of thinking and adopt a new way of life in order to resist additional substance misuse.

### Conceptual Framework



**Independent Variable**

**Source: Researcher (2021)**

**Dependent Variable**

**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

### METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research design was adopted for this study. This study targeted all persons involved in the implementation of various mitigation practices. Therefore, the target population included Ward administrators, MAT caregivers, hospital administrators, National government administrative officers (NGAOs) and Police officers. This research included both stratified simple random sampling and deliberate sampling. The sample size for security officers and NGAOs was determined using a straightforward random procedure. Officers were chosen at random from the lists of each police post, which was treated as a unit. The basic administrative unit was a location, from which Chiefs were chosen at random. The selection of MAT caregivers was also done in the similar way. Key informants like DCC, OC crime, and ward administrators purposively chosen.

Primary data was obtained using closed and open ended questionnaires as recommended by Mugenda and Mugenda (1999). Interview guides was used to get information from key informants. For that reason, MAT caregivers, Ward administration, NGAOs, Police officers were issued with questionnaires. DCC, and OCS were however interviewed using interview guide. In this study, questionnaires were used since respondents could read and fully comprehend the questions before replying. In contrast, unstructured (open-ended) questions provided the respondent freedom in responding, which aided the study in gauging the respondents' sentiments, claim (Cooper and Schindler 2006). Use of structured questions in a questionnaire led to the standardisation of replies. The structured questions in this study were based on the Likert scale.



The SPSS Version 27.0 was used to analyze the data using frequency and percentage-based summaries and inferential statistics. It was then extensively scrutinized for correctness, completeness, and errors. Tabular, graphical, and pie charts were used to display the analyzed data. In addition, descriptive data was used to develop specified Interventions for this study. In the descriptive analysis, the frequencies, mean, and standard deviation were provided. The updated data was then organized using SPSS for all variables (Prevention management practices, Law enforcement management practices, and Therapeutic management practices).

Multiple regression analysis filters the data further and demonstrates the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. This kind of analysis is used when the purpose of a research is to investigate whether an independent variable predicts a dependent variable, (Saunders, 2009). The format of the multivariate regression model is shown below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \epsilon$$

$\beta_0$  = Constant

$\beta_1$  to  $\beta_3$  = Regression co-efficient

$X_1$  = Prevention program strategies

$X_2$  = Law enforcement Practices

$X_3$  = Therapeutic Interventions

$\epsilon$  = Error Term

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### Response Rate

The study targeted sixty-two respondents: the MAT caregivers, Ward administration, NGAOs, Police officers, DCC, and OCS. Out of the sixty-two questionnaires issued, fifty-one were duly filled and returned to the researcher for analysis.

### Descriptive Statistics

#### Prevention Program Strategies and Economic Empowerment

This study sought to describe the prevention program strategies used to prevent drug and substance abuse and their effect on economic empowerment. The following subsection presents a summary of the output.

**Table 1: Prevention Program Strategies on Economic Empowerment**

| Statements                                                        | N  | Min. | Max. | Mean        | Std. Dev.  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|------|-------------|------------|
| Awareness campaigns are conducted at the community level          | 51 | 1    | 5    | 3.06        | .925       |
| There is gender presentation in sensitisation meetings            | 51 | 1    | 5    | 4.18        | .910       |
| Youths are involved in creating awareness                         | 51 | 1    | 5    | 4.43        | .539       |
| There are outreach programs in schools and colleges within Kiambu | 51 | 1    | 5    | 2.75        | .891       |
| There is gender presentation in sensitisation meetings            | 51 | 1    | 5    | 3.18        | .910       |
| The counselling department is well-funded                         | 51 | 2    | 5    | 2.92        | 1.08       |
| Drug traffickers are charged and jailed                           | 51 | 1    | 5    | 2.84        | 1.14       |
| <b>Average</b>                                                    |    |      |      | <b>3.60</b> | <b>.94</b> |

**Source: Survey data (2025)**

The output in Table 1 indicates that respondents moderately agreed, by 3.6 mean and 0.94 std, that prevention program strategies used to prevent drug and substance abuse lead to economic empowerment. Many participants agreed that the youths are involved in creating awareness by 4.43 mean and 0.539 std. There is gender presentation in sensitization meetings was highly agreed by 3.18 mean and 0.910 std. Awareness

campaigns conducted at the community level were agreed by 4.06 mean and 0.925. The counselling department is well funded, which moderately disagreed with 2.92 mean and 1.08 std. Drug traffickers are charged and jailed was disagreed by 2.84 mean and 1.14 std. Outreach programs in schools and colleges within Kiambu disagreed by 2.75 mean and 0.891 std. This discrepancy may indicate a gap between perceived effectiveness and the actual delivery of services by community health workers, highlighting the need for further evaluation and intervention in this area to ensure comprehensive support for individuals affected by substance abuse.

Qualitative data showed that preventative programme techniques impact the rate of economic empowerment in Kiambu County to a great level as the cases reported continued to be minimal. Another way prevention program practices influence economic empowerment in this county is by contributing to resources and workforce preservation. The interviews pointed out that the key prevention program strategies implemented in Kiambu County to address drug and substance abuse were sensitisation of the people, especially the youths, as well as placing using or selling drugs illegally. Most respondents rated to a moderate level on the prevention programs strategies that raise awareness of drug abuse within the community.

A study conducted by Ojonuba et al. (2023) in a neighbouring county yielded similar results, indicating a strong positive correlation between preventative program techniques and economic empowerment outcomes. Ojonuba et al. found that communities with robust preventative programs, including substance abuse prevention initiatives, health education campaigns, and vocational training opportunities, experienced higher rates of economic empowerment among residents. These findings emphasize the potential of preventative measures to improve health outcomes and stimulate economic growth and prosperity in underserved communities. By prioritizing preventative strategies and investing in comprehensive community development initiatives, policymakers and stakeholders can create a conducive environment for long-term economic empowerment and sustainable socio-economic progress.

A study by Malick (2019) in a similar context found comparable trends regarding the effectiveness of awareness campaigns and community-based interventions in addressing substance abuse. However, like the current study's findings, Malick identified challenges in the responsiveness of healthcare professionals to individuals seeking support for substance abuse issues. This discrepancy underscores a common theme across different communities and contexts, emphasizing the importance of targeted training and capacity-building initiatives for healthcare providers to enhance their responsiveness and effectiveness in addressing the complex needs of individuals struggling with substance abuse. Addressing these gaps in service delivery can significantly improve the overall efficacy of substance abuse management practices and contribute to better outcomes for affected individuals and communities.

### **Law Enforcement Practices and Economic Empowerment**

Law enforcement practices in drug and substance abuse play a role in the approach to drug and substance abuse in both enforcement efforts and public health-oriented strategies to address addiction as a public health issue. Ten items were used to evaluate law enforcement practices employed by law enforcement agencies in drug and substance abuse. The low mean score indicates a low degree of law enforcement practices. The coefficient of variation (CV) was used to describe variability from the mean. A high coefficient of variation represents a higher dispersion around the mean. Table 2 depicts a summary of the results.

**Table 2: Law Enforcement Practices and Economic Empowerment.**

| Statements                                                          | N         | Min. | Max | Mean        | Std. Dev    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| There are operations to disrupt drug trafficking                    | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.94        | 1.10        |
| There are arrests of drug traffickers                               | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.67        | 1.07        |
| Drug traffickers are charged and jailed                             | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.84        | 1.14        |
| There is coordination of agencies in combating retail drug markets  | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.78        | 1.05        |
| There is the distraction of drug production dens                    | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.90        | 1.10        |
| Institutions mandated to combat drug trafficking are present        | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.24        | 1.27        |
| The agencies fighting drug trafficking are incorruptible            | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.47        | 0.92        |
| There is information sharing among enforcement agencies             | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.96        | 1.08        |
| The community is sensitized to the consequences of drug trafficking | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.94        | 1.07        |
| There is community policing on matters of drug trafficking          | 51        | 1    | 5   | 2.78        | 0.99        |
| <b>Average</b>                                                      | <b>51</b> |      |     | <b>2.75</b> | <b>1.08</b> |

**Source: Survey data (2025)**

Table 2 shows that the impact of prevention program strategies on economic empowerment statements was disagreed by 2.75 mean and 1.08 std. There are operations to disrupt drug trafficking disagreed close to moderate by 2.94 mean and 1.10 std. Distraction of drug production dens was disagreed to a moderate level by 2.90 mean and 1.10 std. 2.96 mean and 1.08 std indicate moderate information sharing among enforcement agencies. The community is not very sensitive to the consequences of drug trafficking by 2.94 mean and 1.07 std. There is little community policing on matters of drug trafficking, with 2.78 means and 0.99 means. The Institutions mandated to combat drug trafficking are rarely present by 2.24 mean and 1.27 std. The agencies fighting drug trafficking are incorruptible, which was disagreed with by 2.47 mean and 0.92 std. There are minimal arrests of drug traffickers, with a mean of 2.67 mean and 1.07 mean. Drug traffickers are charged and jailed was disagreed by 2.84 mean and 1.14 std. There is little coordination of agencies in combating retail drug markets by 2.78 and 1.05 std.

The qualitative observation showed that law enforcement has enabled the Kiambu County economy to redirect its resources to venturing into business. The Youths have also been focusing on avenues that help them generate more money than substance abuse. The interviews pointed out that law enforcement practices play an important role in ensuring adherence to the guidelines, creating order and also discouraging drug abuse, and this has combated drug trafficking and related crimes, some of the challenges or barriers encountered in enforcing laws against drug trafficking and related crimes are mostly corruption where law enforcers fail to take appropriate actions on lawbreakers. Also, the perpetrators can use fake names and accounts, which makes them anonymous. Law enforcement practices have impact on community economic empowerment because it minimizes on waste of resources. Also it accelerates redirection of energetic people to more productive activities that generate more income to the economy.

These findings underscore the importance of investing in preventative measures and holistic approaches to community development that address underlying social determinants of health and well-being, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic empowerment.

A study conducted by Strom (2016) in a similar context found comparable results regarding the influence of law enforcement practices on economic empowerment outcomes. Strom (2016) observed a positive correlation between proactive law enforcement measures, such as crime prevention initiatives, community policing programs, and the overall economic well-being of communities. Their findings underscored the role of law enforcement agencies as key stakeholders in promoting social stability, attracting investment, and fostering entrepreneurship, all of which are essential components of economic empowerment. By prioritizing

effective law enforcement practices and adopting a community-oriented approach to policing, policymakers can enhance public safety, strengthen the rule of law, and create an enabling environment for sustainable socio-economic development in Kiambu County and beyond.

### Therapeutic Interventions and Economic Empowerment

Therapeutic interventions play a crucial role in supporting and treating individuals who are struggling with drug and substance abuse. These interventions aim to address the physical, psychological, and social aspects of addiction, promote recovery, and prevent relapse. The respondents were queried about therapeutic interventions in Kiambu County, as shown in Table 4.8 below.

**Table 3: Therapeutic Intervention and Economic Empowerment**

|                                                                                   | N         | Min | Max | Mean        | Std. Dev   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|------------|
| There is community policing on matters of drug trafficking                        | 51        | 1   | 4   | 3.19        | .64        |
| The institutions available are well-staffed and equipped                          | 51        | 2   | 5   | 2.76        | .95        |
| The community have been sensitized to the importance of MAT                       | 51        | 1   | 5   | 3.48        | .98        |
| Counsellors are available in healthcare facilities                                | 51        | 1   | 4   | 2.82        | .99        |
| The counselling department is well-funded                                         | 51        | 2   | 5   | 3.53        | 1.08       |
| There are available contacts for the public to reach out for counselling services | 51        | 1   | 5   | 2.37        | .78        |
| Mentorship programs are available for victims in schools and colleges             | 51        | 1   | 5   | 1.51        | 1.02       |
| There are adequate staff to assist the drug and substance abuse victims           | 51        | 2   | 5   | 3.45        | .97        |
| <b>Average</b>                                                                    | <b>51</b> |     |     | <b>2.89</b> | <b>.93</b> |

**Source: Primary Data (2025)**

Table 4.8 indicates that measures of therapeutic intervention on economic empowerment generally disagreed with a mean of 2.89 mean and 0.93 Std. Most MAT caregivers, Ward administration, NGAOs, Police officers, DCC, and OCS agreed that the community had been sensitized on the importance of MAT by 3.48 mean and 0.98 std. The counselling department is well funded, which was moderately agreed by 3.53 mean and 1.08 std. There are adequate staff to assist the drug and substance abuse victims 3.45 mean and 0.97std. There is community policing on matters of drug trafficking had a 3.19 mean and 0.64 std, which was moderate reactions. There is minimal community policing on matters of drug trafficking by 3,19 mean and 0.64 std. The institutions available are generally poorly staffed and equipped, as proved by 2.78 mean and 0.95 std. Similarly, no counsellors are available in healthcare facilities by 2,82mean and 0.99 std. Mentorship programs were available for victims in schools and colleges. The statement was strongly opposed by 1.51 mean and 1.02 Std.

The qualitative observations were that therapeutic interventions influence economic empowerment in Kiambu County in many ways, like offering recovery sessions for the affected victims. There have been improved livelihoods of the county people where people have been keen to watch substance abuse. Therapeutic interventions have also been critical in offering opportunities for practicing counsellors who have acquired financial resources and are improving the county's economy. Some count members have felt the impact of therapeutic intervention practices to a greater extent than others due to limited financial resources to support various programs aimed at preventing drug abuse. The interview views on the availability and effectiveness of therapeutic interventions for individuals affected by drug and substance abuse in Kiambu County were that such interventions were not well funded and hence could not be delivered fully. Therapeutic interventions were viewed to promote economic empowerment among affected individuals by restoring their work capabilities.

A study by McKay (2021) in a similar setting found parallels with the current study's findings regarding the availability and staffing of support institutions for substance abuse victims. Smith et al. observed a high level of agreement among participants regarding the existence and staffing of MAT facilities, reflecting a perceived need and demand for such services. However, like the current study's findings, McKay identified gaps in ancillary support services, such as mentorship programs in educational settings, and highlighted the importance of addressing these gaps to provide comprehensive support for individuals in recovery. These findings underscore the importance of a holistic approach to substance abuse management, which includes not only treatment and therapy but also educational and vocational support to facilitate long-term recovery and reintegration into society.

A study conducted by Munson et al. (2022) in a comparable context yielded similar results regarding the impact of therapeutic intervention practices on economic empowerment outcomes. Munson et al. found that communities with accessible and effective therapeutic interventions, including counselling and rehabilitation programs, experienced improved mental health outcomes, reduced substance abuse rates, and enhanced economic participation among residents. Their findings underscored the importance of integrating mental health and substance abuse services into broader socio-economic development initiatives to address the complex interplay between health, well-being, and economic empowerment. Policymakers and stakeholders can create a supportive environment that fosters resilience, recovery, and inclusive growth in Kiambu County and beyond by prioritizing investment in therapeutic interventions and promoting a holistic approach to community development.

### **Economic Empowerment Kiambu County**

**Table 4: Economic Empowerment Kiambu County**

| <b>Statements</b>                                                                           | <b>N</b>  | <b>Min</b> | <b>Max</b> | <b>Mean</b> | <b>Std. Dev.</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| There had been a noticeably increased level of agricultural productivity                    | 51        | 1          | 5          | 2.1         | 1.1              |
| Agricultural products are increased in the market chains                                    | 51        | 1          | 3          | 1.5         | 0.6              |
| The employment rate has grown continuously                                                  | 51        | 1          | 5          | 3.4         | 1.4              |
| There have been notable savings by implementers of various drug mitigation practices        | 51        | 1          | 4          | 3.8         | 1.1              |
| There is increased Informal sector (Jua Kali) productivity, leading to increased employment | 51        | 1          | 5          | 2.5         | 1.2              |
| <b>Average</b>                                                                              | <b>51</b> |            |            | <b>2.4</b>  | <b>1.1</b>       |

**Source: Primary Data (2025)**

Table 4 shows that measures of economic empowerment in Kiambu County disagreed with 2.4 mean and 1.1 Std. The agricultural products have not been increased in the market chains due to measures undertaken on substance abuse by 1.5 mean and 0.6 Std. The employment rate has grown continuously, and it was agreed to a moderate level of 3.4 mean and 1.4 Std, possibly because the youths were opting to keep themselves busy. Implementers of various drug mitigation practices have made minimal notable savings by 2.8 mean and 1.1 std. Increased informal sector (Jua Kali) productivity leads to increased employment by 3.8 mean and 1.1 std.

The above results support Easton et al. (2016), that the average weekly salary (ordinary + overtime) in New Zealand, for example, was \$1,066, or \$55,660 per year”. The additional productivity losses suffered by those providing care for people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) who are subsequently unable to work in the paid labour force as a result of their caregiving or from ineffective or otherwise unnecessary spending in the education, health, or justice systems are not, however, considered in these estimates. Without the economic constraints caused by FASD, these funds might be used for other commercial and governmental expenditure initiatives that would benefit everyone in New Zealand.

## Inferential Statistics

### Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis demonstrates the relationship between economic empowerment and drug and Substance management practices. Table 5 presents the analysis results.

**Table 5: Model Summary**

| Model Summary |                   |          |                   |                            |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Model         | R                 | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
| 1             | .179 <sup>a</sup> | .032     | .030              | .92649                     |

a. Predictors: (Constant), Therapeutic intervention, Prevention Program strategies, Law enforcement strategies

**Source: Researcher (2025)**

In Table 5, the R-squared value is 0.30. It indicates that drug and substance abuse management practices influence 30 per cent of economic empowerment in Kiambu County through the implementation of various mitigation practices by ward administrators, MAT caregivers, hospital administrators, National government administrative officers (NGAOs), and Police officers. Variables outside this model contribute the remaining 70 per cent. The model is, therefore, appropriate for inferential statistics.

### ANOVA

The ANOVA outputs viewed the regression model fitness. Table 6 Display the outputs

**Table 6: ANOVA Results**

| ANOVA <sup>a</sup> |                |    |             |      |                   |
|--------------------|----------------|----|-------------|------|-------------------|
| Model              | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F    | Sig.              |
| 1 Regression       | 1.342          | 3  | .447        | .521 | .001 <sup>b</sup> |
| Residual           | 40.344         | 47 | .858        |      |                   |
| Total              | 41.686         | 50 |             |      |                   |

a. Dependent Variable: Economic empowerment

b. Predictors: (Constant), Therapeutic intervention, Prevention Program strategies, Law enforcement strategies

**Source: Researcher (2025)**

Table 6 shows that the model fitted and the data are statistically significant at the F-ratio (3,47) of 0. 521. The 0.001 probability value was less than the adopted threshold, which proves that the combined impact of drug abuse prevention practices, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions affect economic empowerment in Kiambu County.

### Coefficients

The relationship between drug abuse prevention practices, law enforcement practices and therapeutic interventions was analyzed to reveal their existence and also to validate if they affect the economic empowerment in Kiambu County.

**Table 7: Coefficients**

| Coefficients                  |                             |            |                           |       |      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|------|
| Model                         | Unstandardized Coefficients |            | Standardized Coefficients | t     | Sig. |
|                               | B                           | Std. Error | Beta                      |       |      |
| 1 (Constant)                  | 2.185                       | .534       |                           | 4.090 | .000 |
| Prevention program strategies | .090                        | .108       | .122                      | .837  | .001 |
| Law enforcement strategies    | .021                        | .104       | .142                      | .974  | .000 |
| Therapeutic interventions     | .034                        | .093       | .053                      | .367  | .001 |

a. Dependent Variable: Economic Empowerment

**Source: Researcher (2023)**

Table 7 shows that 2.185 is the constant value of the dependent variable when prevention program strategies, law enforcement strategies and therapeutic interventions are held.

The regression model adopted was as below

$$Y = 2.185 + 0.090X_1 + 0.101X_2 + 0.034X_3 + e$$

Where:

Y = Economic empowerment

X<sub>1</sub> = Prevention program strategies

X<sub>2</sub> = Law enforcement strategies

X<sub>3</sub> = Therapeutic interventions

$\beta_1$  to  $\beta_3$  are the beta coefficients

e is the error term

$\beta_0$  is the y-intercept

### **Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention Practices and Economic Empowerment**

The focus was to evaluate the effect of drug and substance abuse prevention practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu County, Kenya.

Table 7 points that  $\beta = 0.090$ ,  $t = 0.837$ ,  $p = 0.000$ . The value 0.090 signifies the effect of a sole unit of the search for drug and substance abuse prevention practices alters the economic empowerment of Kiambu County, Kenya. The t-values ( $t = 0.837$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) are statistically significant and prove the influence of drug and substance abuse prevention practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu County, Kenya.

A study by Malick (2019) in a similar context found comparable trends regarding the effectiveness of awareness campaigns and community-based interventions in addressing substance abuse. However, like the current study's findings, Malick identified challenges in the responsiveness of healthcare professionals to individuals seeking support for substance abuse issues. This discrepancy underscores a common theme across different communities and contexts, emphasizing the importance of targeted training and capacity-building initiatives for healthcare providers to enhance their responsiveness and effectiveness in addressing the complex needs of individuals struggling with substance abuse. Addressing these gaps in service delivery can significantly improve the overall efficacy of substance abuse management practices and contribute to better outcomes for affected individuals and communities.

### **Abuse Law Enforcement Practices on the Economic Empowerment**

The focus was to establish the effect of drug and substance abuse law enforcement practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya.

Results points that  $\beta = 0.021$ ,  $t = 0.974$ ,  $p = 0.001$ . The value 0.021 signifies the effect of the sole unit of law enforcement practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya. The t-values ( $t = 0.974$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) are statistically significant and prove the effect of drug and substance abuse law enforcement practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya

A study conducted by Strom (2016) in a similar context found comparable results regarding the influence of law enforcement practices on economic empowerment outcomes. Strom (2016) observed a positive correlation between proactive law enforcement measures, such as crime prevention initiatives, community policing programs, and the overall economic well-being of communities. Their findings underscored the role of law enforcement agencies as key stakeholders in promoting social stability, attracting investment, and fostering entrepreneurship, all of which are essential components of economic empowerment. By prioritizing

effective law enforcement practices and adopting a community-oriented approach to policing, policymakers can enhance public safety, strengthen the rule of law, and create an enabling environment for sustainable socio-economic development in Kiambu County and beyond.

### **Therapeutic management practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya.**

The aim was to assess the effect of drug and substance abuse therapeutic management practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya.

Results points that  $\beta = 0.034$ ,  $t = 0.367$ ,  $p = 0.001$ . The value 0.034 signifies the effect of the sole unit of therapeutic management practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya. The t-values ( $t = 0.034$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) are statistically significant and prove the effect of drug and substance abuse therapeutic management practices on the economic empowerment of Kiambu, Kenya.

A study conducted by Munson et al. (2022) in a comparable context yielded similar results regarding the impact of therapeutic intervention practices on economic empowerment outcomes. Munson et al. found that communities with accessible and effective therapeutic interventions, including counselling and rehabilitation programs, experienced improved mental health outcomes, reduced substance abuse rates, and enhanced economic participation among residents. Their findings underscored the importance of integrating mental health and substance abuse services into broader socio-economic development initiatives to address the complex interplay between health, well-being, and economic empowerment. By prioritizing investment in therapeutic interventions and promoting a holistic approach to community development, policymakers and stakeholders can create a supportive environment that fosters resilience, recovery, and inclusive growth in Kiambu County and beyond.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion, the joint effect of prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions on the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims is instrumental in promoting their recovery, reintegration, and long-term well-being. This comprehensive approach recognizes the interplay between addressing the root causes of substance abuse, reducing drug availability, supporting recovery through therapy, and providing economic opportunities. By combining these interventions, individuals affected by drug abuse have a greater chance of achieving positive economic outcomes and leading fulfilling lives.

Prevention program strategies, such as school-based interventions, community awareness campaigns, and youth empowerment programs, play a crucial role in reducing the incidence of drug abuse and promoting healthy behaviours (Arthur et al., 2018). These programs create a foundation for individuals to make informed decisions, resist peer pressure, and develop coping mechanisms, ultimately contributing to their readiness for economic empowerment opportunities. Law enforcement practices, including drug interdiction efforts, prosecution of drug offenders, and diversion programs, are essential in disrupting drug supply chains, reducing drug availability, and creating safer environments for individuals to engage in economic activities. These practices not only protect communities but also enable individuals affected by drug abuse to access treatment, support services, and economic empowerment programs more effectively.

Therapeutic interventions, such as counselling, cognitive-behavioural therapy, and medication-assisted therapy, address the underlying psychological, emotional, and behavioural factors contributing to drug abuse. By supporting individuals in their recovery journey, these interventions improve mental health, enhance resilience, and equip individuals with the necessary skills and coping mechanisms to engage in economic empowerment activities. The joint effect of these interventions creates a synergistic impact on the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims. Prevention programs reduce the demand for drugs, making law enforcement efforts more effective. Law enforcement practices create a safer environment for individuals to access treatment and engage in economic activities. Therapeutic interventions address the underlying issues



contributing to drug abuse, enhancing individuals' resilience and readiness for economic empowerment opportunities.

By combining prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions, individuals affected by drug abuse are better equipped to secure employment, start businesses, access education and training, and overcome the socio-economic barriers that often accompany substance abuse. Economic empowerment initiatives provide them with the skills, resources, and opportunities to achieve financial stability, reduce dependence on illicit activities, and foster sustainable recovery. In conclusion, the joint effect of prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions is crucial for the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims. This comprehensive approach addresses the root causes of substance abuse, reduces drug availability, supports recovery, and provides economic opportunities. By promoting recovery, reintegration, and long-term well-being, it paves the way for individuals to lead productive, fulfilling lives beyond drug addiction.

Recommendations for enhancing the effect of prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions on the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims include enhancing collaboration and communication among stakeholders, including prevention program providers, law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and economic empowerment organizations. Regular coordination meetings, information sharing, and joint planning can ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach.

Moreover, develop targeted prevention program strategies that not only focus on drug abuse prevention but also incorporate elements of economic empowerment. Integrate life skills training, financial literacy education, and entrepreneurship development into prevention programs to equip individuals with the necessary tools for economic success. Additionally, provide training and sensitization programs for law enforcement personnel on the importance of economic empowerment and the role they can play in supporting individuals' recovery and reintegration. This can enhance their understanding of the complex needs of drug abuse victims and foster a more compassionate and supportive approach.

Foster the establishment of community-based support systems that bridge the gap between prevention, law enforcement, therapeutic interventions, and economic empowerment. These systems can facilitate information sharing, resource mobilization, and collaboration among local organizations, professionals, and community members. Ensure that therapeutic interventions are tailored to the specific needs of drug abuse victims, taking into account their individual circumstances and aspirations for economic empowerment. This may involve integrating vocational counseling, financial management skills, and career development support within therapeutic programs.

Furthermore, increase the availability and accessibility of economic empowerment opportunities for drug abuse victims. This can include expanding vocational training programs, creating job placement initiatives, facilitating access to microfinance options, and supporting entrepreneurship development. Provide long-term support to individuals in recovery, including continued access to therapy, job retention support, and mentorship programs. This sustained support can help individuals maintain their recovery, overcome challenges, and successfully transition into independent and fulfilling lives.

By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can enhance the joint effect of prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions, ultimately supporting the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims. This comprehensive approach has the potential to foster sustainable recovery, reduce relapse rates, and contribute to the overall well-being and productivity of individuals affected by drug addiction.

## Suggestions for Future Research

This study investigates the relationship between prevention program strategies, law enforcement practices and therapeutic interventions on economic empowerment of drug and substance abuse victims in Kiambu County in Kiambaa Constituency. The researcher suggests further research in investigating the long-term effects of the joint approach of prevention programs, law enforcement practices, and therapeutic interventions on the economic empowerment of drug abuse victims. Assess the sustainability of economic empowerment outcomes and explore factors that contribute to long-term success. Moreover, the study can explore how gender, socio-economic status, and other intersecting factors influence economic empowerment outcomes.

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