

Who is responsible for the rise of drug abuse amongst youth in society?

Share your thoughts as part of our monthly Inequality Question

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Genetic and environmental factors play a big role in the rise of drugs within the youth.

David

Physical and sexual abuse

Grace

Success of drug users and dealers such as Bobi wine in Uganda who has rose from a drug dealer and musician to a now a president to be.

Kabaya-Kampala

Stress, most especially for youth at school, if they lack coping skills because of the packed schedule of advanced classes, they are forced to use drugs to be able to relax and calm down.

Fred

Early exposure to drugs by children due to poor parental care

Lack of guidance and counseling for some youth groups has caused the rise of drugs

Jackline

moore

Policy integration, where the policies are conflicting each other within the country.

Jeniffer

Weak administration in school are responsible for rise of drugs within our communities.

Cultural norms and societal attitudes toward drug use can influence young people's behaviors.

Erica

Nishaa

Some teens begin using drugs because they are curious about how using substances will feel.

Myrah

Addiction, some teens and young adults are stuck amongst the the cycle. At such a young age, they are more vulnerable to developing dependence and addiction.

Marketing and Advertising: The marketing strategies employed by both legal and illegal drug manufacturers and dealers can target vulnerable youth populations.

Oola

Josiah

In many movies, TVs shows and books, drugs and alcohol use is glorified. as a result, many teens think that drug and alcohol use is fun.

Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences: Early-life trauma and adverse experiences can increase the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors, including drug abuse.

Michael

Lack of Support Systems: Insufficient support from family, schools, and communities can contribute to a sense of isolation and increase the likelihood of turning to drugs.

Emma

Economic Factors: Socioeconomic disparities and lack of opportunities can create an environment where some youth may turn to drugs as a coping mechanism.

Hope

Young people may begin taking drugs to lose weight or seek an unrealistic body type. In this case its common for eating disorder behaviors to be mixed with substance use.

Zefaraani

Lack of Education: Insufficient education about the risks and consequences of drug abuse can leave young people unaware of the potential harms.

Alupo

Do you think that children who are in school or children who are out of school are more likely to take drugs? – ANONYMOUS

Mental Health Issues: Youth facing mental health challenges might turn to drugs as a form of self-medication, which can lead to substance abuse

Michele

Gift

Teenagers with parents or grandparents and other relatives who had or have substance use issues are more likely to develop an addiction.

Availability of Drugs: The ease of access to drugs, whether legal or illegal, can contribute to their abuse among youth.

MOLD RED

Media and Pop Culture: Media portrayal of drug use, whether in movies, music, or other forms of entertainment, can normalize and glamorize drug use, affecting young people's perceptions.

JOB

Family Environment: Family dynamics, upbringing, and exposure to drug use within the family can impact a young person's susceptibility to drug abuse.

SAMUEL

Peer Pressure: Friends and social circles can have a significant influence on a young person's behavior, including their decisions related to drug use

IISa

Child neglect from the start has caused the children to get involved in use of drugs.

Joy

Lack of parental responsibilities has made many youth end up using drugs at a high rate within societies.

Generous.

Harrison

History within family

Also inadequate drug prevention and intervention programmes – ANONYMOUS

Many young people begin taking drugs to reduce the physical or emotional pain associated with trauma.

Mimie

Is there something else could be done to help them overcome the trauma other than drug taking? – ANONYMOUS

Setting up more rehab centres dealing mainly in social psyscho support – ANONYMOUS

Ruth

To feel like a grown up

But also the pressure the youth feel from friends and even family members – ANONYMOUS

Mukodha

Competition-The need to perform, impress, and to make proud is a great pressure for adolescents. Whether in school or on the field, young people consistently want to prove they are the best of their peers and parents.

Emilly

Social media that advertises the drugs.

social media makes youth want to explore the drugs usually advertised – ANONYMOUS

The governments need to put a total embargo on social media pages that glorifies use of drugs – ANONYMOUS

Reihanah

Some legislators in the parliament give ago ahead to plant drugs.

Racheal

Attention, Teens often experience lack of purpose or talent. They feel like they are not good enough to shine or are lacking some thing to make them special, so they start using drugs.

What could be done to help them feel special without needing drugs? – ANONYMOUS

Influence of drug trafficking

Makida

Also low self esteem due to physical appearance or lack of friends can lead to self destructive behaviors and drug abuse. – ANONYMOUS

Nabirye

People who desire to fit in society

Riah

People who believe that drugs are medicines that treat diseases.

Genetic predisposition to addiction which the youth get from their parents.

owere

Jane

Influence of older siblings or family members who use drugs

What could we do to stop this influence from affecting other family members? – ANONYMOUS

Mwesigwa

Mental health issues in youth, that are caused by drug use are responsible for rise of drugs.

Influence of advertising and marketing strategies by drug companies

Prachi

Availability of prescription drugs.

Prescription stimulations because they think those substances will enhance their ability to do home work an disprove their ability to do homework and improve their grades. – ANONYMOUS

Mayambala

The peer pressure is responsible for the rise of drugs amongst use.

Nisha

The influence of drug using role models or celebrities.

this has made the youth want to act and behave like the role mode – ANONYMOUS

Shamim

Desire for self medication

What are they trying to self medicate for? – ANONYMOUS

Also youth use drugs to ease their pain and feel good from the problems they are facing in their families – ANONYMOUS

Judy

Youth luck mentorship by the elder siblings or even parents.

Easy access to drugs in society

Micheal

What do you feel that could be done in society to stop drugs being so easily accessible? – ANONYMOUS

Putting strict laws against drug users and sellers – ANONYMOUS

Yusuf

socio economic factors and inequality

Kyotalimye

Influence of popular culture and media

Great idea-For example a country like Jamaica that legalized marijuana ,they are responsible for rise of drugs – ANONYMOUS

Lack of positive recreational activities or hobbies

Latif

lack of parental involvement or supervision

some parents are reluctant in talk and advise their children – ANONYMOUS

Also youth take drugs to forget their troubles and relax. – ANONYMOUS

mudhumba

Lack of education, some adolescents and young adults grow up thinking drug and alcohol use is normal

Mukisa

Traumatic experiences or adverse childhood experiences

kisibo Herman

stress and pressure from school or academic expectations

Interesting point! Do you think there are any ways academic institutions could prevent stress or improve students' well-being? – ANONYMOUS

Introduction of new co curricular activities like sports ,counselling and rehabilitation centres – ANONYMOUS

Makidah

Lack of education and awareness about the dangers of drug by authorities.

Many youth feel that the only way they can be themselves is if they use substance.

Mayambala

Youth start to use drugs as an escape from the problems they face at home like financial problems and physical abuse.

Owere

Great answer, Besides drugs what else could be done to help these children overcome the the problems they face at home? – ANONYMOUS

massive sensitization of youths on the effects and dangers of drug use to their lives and the entire community – ANONYMOUS

Mental health

Lack of adequate drug rehabilitation centres in our society could be responsible for massive drug abuse. Ssentongo Brentford

Also the influence of Western culture has increased the drug use in low developed countries like Uganda. Because people want to act like what they see in movies and social media sites. Mukose artsum

Poverty and poor standards of living is to be blamed ,It makes people to be frustrated with life thus resorting to drug abuse . Zafarani

Yes, I agree. Do you think this means that the only way to stop drug use is to improve living standards, or can we help people who are still in poverty to stop using drugs as well? – ANONYMOUS

Ignorance and illiteracy is one of the major cause of rampant drug abuse in our community. NAKATU

That's a good argument. Does that mean that educating people about drugs makes them less likely to use them? – ANONYMOUS

Yeah...education is power – ANONYMOUS

One of the main causes of teen drug use is the pressure they feel from friends and even family members.

Makida

Drug dealers

Drug dealers that have made it legally to sell off drugs in public places where the youth can easily access them.

easy acces of drugs has made it easy for people to get them.
— ANONYMOUS

Permissive attitude towards their own decisions. Also leads to behavioral problems in youth.



That makes sense. Does this mean that all drug use is the fault of the person using the drugs? Are there other factors involved?
— ANONYMOUS

Yes also cultural or societal norms that tolerate drug use.
— ANONYMOUS

Poor relationship with parents, when a youth is rebelling against their parents or not getting along with their parents or family, they may turn to substances and drug for comfort.



Conflict at home. In homes with intense conflict (more than just a disagreement), youth may use substances as an escape from their pain.

David

true because they think that the drugs will make them forgety their problems — ANONYMOUS

Peer pressure, If they are a part of a group of friends or peers where substance use is accepted or encouraged, there is a greater chance that they will participate or experiment in order to fit in.

Sarah

Good point! Is there anything that makes a group of friends more or less likely to accept substance use? — ANONYMOUS

Many friends and family members show pictures of using substances on social media, therefore youth think that it is socially acceptable. — ANONYMOUS

Governments need to crack down on drug importers, exporters and dealers to stop drugs being so easily available



That sounds like it would help! Do people always use drugs when they're available, or is there a way we could stop people from wanting to use them, do you think? – ANONYMOUS

Easy access to drugs influence people to use them. – ANONYMOUS
