

## INFORMATION BEHAVIOUR AND SUBSTANCE USE AMONG UNDERGRADUATES IN BABCOCK UNIVERSITY, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This study investigated the information behaviour and substance use/abuse among undergraduates in Babcock University, Ogun state, Nigeria. This study adopted a survey research design. The design was considered appropriate because it helped the researcher to assess the opinion and behavior of the respondents. The participants were 50 undergraduates registered for the “RIGHT CHOICE” program who have been identified to be involved with substance use/abuse. These undergraduates, undergoing therapeutic interventions were purposefully selected from the psychosocial Unit of the Student Support Services Department of Babcock University Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State. A total of 50 questionnaires were distributed to the respondent who as at the time still had therapeutic sessions with the counsellors to complete for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of 2017/2018 Academic Session. A purposive sampling technique was used in selecting 50 out of the undergraduates who are registered with the Psychosocial Unit for the study sample. Out of the 50-questionnaire distributed only 30 was retrieved and found usable for this study. Analysis of data is presented in simple percentage using bar chart to represent the graphical description of the frequency count and simple percentage of the respondents. The study revealed that majority of the respondents are male undergraduates who are involved with substance use and abuse. It also revealed that undergraduates have diverse information needs and satisfy these information needs by seeking from other undergraduates. The study also revealed that the major sources of information for undergraduates with substance use are the social media as well as friends and peer groups. Recommendations are made to stakeholders, university administrators, parents and the government on the importance to devising new strategies for disseminating vital information. The need to organize programs that will sensitize undergraduates who are already involved with substance use and abuse on the dangers and adverse effect of this substance on their health as well as their academic pursuit. Finally, government are to reformulate policies that will prohibit the advertisement of alcoholic beverages and tobacco on Mass media and bill boards in the society at large.

**Keywords:** Information, Information Behaviour, Undergraduates, Substance Use, Substance Abuse.