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DRUG USE AND DIVORCE RATES IN BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA

Wisdom Selekekeme Krokeyi
Department of Economics
Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Nigeria
&
Grace Atije-Tonye Scent
Department of Sociology
Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This study examines the relationship between drug use and divorce rates in Bayelsa State Nigeria, it utilized survey design, using questionnaire to obtain data with a purposive sample size of 420. The data was analyzed using the Logistic and the Probit regression techniques. It was found that drug consumption, frequency of drug consumption and misuse of drug had a positive and insignificant impact on divorce among drug consumers. The Pseudo R^2 presented in column (1) shows that the variables in the model explain approximately 68.56% change in the divorce rate. The likelihood chi-square value of 30.53 ($p = 0.0000$) means that the variables jointly significantly affect the rate of divorce. The p-value for hats is 0.239. The non-significant hatsq means good regression model adequacy. Also, the insignificant Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit test is evidence of the overall goodness of fit of the regression model. Sensitization of the dangers associated with the abuse of drug, frequent consumption of drug and the use of drug without a medical doctor's prescription is recommended.

Keywords: Bayelsa, Drugs, Substances, Divorce, Marriage

INTRODUCTION

The increase in divorces globally, particularly in Nigeria is alarming. What is responsible for divorces has been situated to multifaceted socioeconomic factors. However, what constitute the factors behind the increasing divorces are yet to be ascertained. Drug misuse is the use of drugs for purposes other than medical reasons, thus affecting the individual drug consumer negatively either socially, cognitively or physically (Kuria, 1996). Drug enters the body through chewing, inhaling, smoking, drinking, rubbing on the skin or through injection. Drug misuse leads to loss of wages, destruction of properties in schools, increasing healthcare expenditure and family problems. The need for scientifically proven effect of drug abuse in order to prevent negative effects becomes imperative in Bayelsa State, essentially with respect to reducing the incessant divorce cases.

In Nigeria for instance, out of 14.3

Corresponding author: Wisdom Selekekeme Krokeyi, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Email Address: wisdomesele@ndu.edu.ng; selekekeme2000@gmail.com

million drug users, about 3 million suffered from drug use disorder (UNODC, 2021). More worrisome is the revelation by the Chairman of Bayelsa State Drug Misuse Prevention and Rehabilitation Committee, Mrs. Faith Zibs-Godwin, who revealed that Bayelsa State recorded the highest cases of drug abuse among South-South States in a survey conducted by the United National Office on Drug and crimes (UNODC, 2021).

In Bayelsa State, both youth and old indulges in drug misuse (UNODC, 2021). There are negative effects of drug consumption and domestic violence (Ediomo-Ubong, 2015). One of such negative effects might be domestic violence, which could bring about divorce in the family if such domestic violence continues. The question deserving answer, therefore is that; could drug misuse be responsible for divorces in our society, particularly in Bayelsa State? There is the need to investigate the relationship between drug misuse and divorce rates in Bayelsa State. It, therefore, becomes imperative and necessary to investigate the impact of drug and substance misuse on divorce rates in Bayelsa State - Nigeria. However, what aspect of life has it affected in Bayelsa State? Is there an impact of drug and substance misuse on divorce rate in Bayelsa State? Though, there is copious literature on the relationship between drug and substance abuse on divorces in Nigeria with little attention to Bayelsa State. It is in a bid to provide for this gap that has motivated the study to examine the impact of drug and substance misuse in Bayelsa State with specific objective to: (i) examine the impact of drug and substance misuse on divorce in Bayelsa State.

The social learning theory of substance use was proposed by Albert Bandura in 1977. The theory states that social behaviour is a phenomenon that is learned through observation and imitation of behaviour of other members of a society. According to the theorist, people learn a great deal from watching other people and seeing the rewards and/or punishments received. It emphasizes the importance of observing, modelling, and imitating the behaviours, attitudes, emotional reactions of other members of an environment or society. The social learning theory of substance misuse suggests that people use and misuse drugs and substances in a society by learning, observing and imitating the behaviour of other drug and substances misuser within their environment. This theory explains the reason for the wide spread behaviour why people misuse drugs and substances in our society which might have led to violence, several crimes, divorces in marriages, joblessness and lowered standard of living of misusers and associates.

Keoikantse and Kennedy (2015), conducted a study on stressful life events and substance use in Nigeria. The nexus between stressful life and alcohol use in university in Botswana was examined. The result shows that stressful life events are strong predictors of alcohol use among young adults at university levels. The paper recommends policies for intervention to curtail adverse effects of stressful life events at university level and to teach students better coping strategies

and bitter education on alcohol use.

Ediomo-Ubong (2015), investigated the negative effects of alcohol consumption on people and the individual drinker in terms of domestic violence in Oron, Nigeria. The study found that men's awareness of the effects of drinking on members of their families provides leverage for policy and actions to address harm to families from a member's drinking.

Ineme, Ineme, Gboyega, Alimi, Ukpong, Akpabio and Inemesit (2020), investigated the relationship among nicotine dependence, demographic variables and Internet gambling addiction. It was concluded that a good understanding of the relationship between nicotine intake and Internet gambling is important for developing regulatory initiatives, awareness, and prevention programmes for responsible Internet use. Nyaga, Mwaura, Mutundu, Njeru, Juma and Were (2021) evaluated the types of drugs, the socio-economic and health consequences of drug abuse among the inhabitants of Gachie sub-location, Kiambu Country a town within Nairobi suburbs. A snowballing sampling method was used to elicit information from 246 respondents aged between 15-65 years. The paper utilized SPSS version 21 in data analysis and found that over-counter prescription drugs such as Benzhexol and traditional heroine were the major abused drugs reported in the study. The results of drug abuse, according to the findings were; failed marriages, conflictual-family and communal relationships, unemployment, life of destitution and poverty were the main socio-economic consequences. Zamani, Dahiru and Monday (2020) investigated the relationship between substance abuse, conflict and development. The result showed that illicit drugs engenders low productivity, spread acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and environmental decay. The paper recommended that efforts should be geared toward curbing the spread of illegal drugs in circulation in Nigeria.

The reviewed literature above reveal that no study has investigated the impact of impact of Drug and substance misuse on divorce rates in Bayelsa State. Hence, the study was conducted to fill the gap.

METHOD

Study Area: The study was conducted in Yenagoa metropolis, Bayelsa State. Yenagoa is the head quarter of Yenagoa local government area and the capital city of Bayelsa State. It is bounded by Mbiama communities of Rivers State on the North and East, Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area on the South East and Southern Ijaw on the South West. There are Twenty (21) communities within the study area which are: Igbogene, Yenigwe, Akenfa, Agudama-Epie, Akenpai, Edepie, Etegwe, Okutukutu, Opolo, Biogbolo, Yenizuegene, Kpansia, Yenizue-Epie, Okaka, Azikoro, Ekeki, Amarata, Onopa, Ovom, Swali and Yenagoa. English is the official language, however, Epie/Atissa language is the major local language spoken in Yenagoa. The 2006 report of national population commission, Yenagoa has a population of 352,285 which is made of 182, 240 males and

170,045 females clustered in twenty-one (21) communities that made up the Yenagoa metropolis (Annual Abstract of Statistics, 2012). In order to investigate impact of drug misuse in Yenagoa metropolis Bayelsa State, the study utilized and administered 420 questionnaire purposively to primary respondents and 20 copies to each of the 21communities within Yenagoa metropolis.

Data Collection

The data were drawn from primary source. Four Hundred and Twenty questionnaire obtained purposively were administered in all the twenty-one (21) communities to generate the primary data as 20 questionnaire were administered in each community. The questionnaire was tailored towards gathering information of impact of drug and substance misuse on divorce rates in Bayelsa State.

Model Specification

To measure the impact of drug misuse on divorce among drug consumers, logistic regression was employed. The functional form of the model is as follows:

$$Logit(Divorce_i) = f(Cons\_Drug,\ Drug\_Often,\ Drug\_Prescribe,\ Age,\ Education,\ Income\_Source,\ Gender) \quad (1)$$

Where $Divorce_i$ is the likelihood of drug misuse by a consumer in the i[th] household being divorced after drug misuse. $Cons\_Drug$ is the use of Drug, and $Drug\_Oten$ measures how often Drug is used. $Drug\_Prescribe$ represents Drug misuse – measured by of drug by a consumer without aMedical Doctor's prescription, Age represents the age of the drug consumer, and $Education$ is the highest education attained by a drug consumer. $Income\_Source$ is the source of income of a drug consumer and $Gender$ is the gender of a drug consumer. The use of drug, how often drug is consumed, and the use of drug by a consumer without a Medical Doctor's prescription is expected to have a direct relationship with divorce among consumer, while the income source of the drug user, and the level of education of the drug user is expected to education of the drug user is expected to have inverse relationship with divorce. The age and gender of drug consumer is expected to be either positive or negative. Equation (1) is re-modelled as:

$$Logit(Divorce_i) = a_0 + a_1 Cons\_Drug + a_2 Drug\_Often + a_3 Drug\_Prescribe + a_4 Age + a_5 Education + a_6 Income\_Source + a_7 Gender + e_{1i} \quad (2)$$

Where e_{1i} represents the error term. Other variables remained as earlier defined.

A Probit regression model is estimated as well to carry out a robustness check of the estimates. The Probit regression model is specified as:

$$Probit(Divorce_i) = \vartheta_0 + \vartheta_1 Cons\_Drug + \vartheta_2 Drug\_Often + \vartheta_3 Drug\_Prescribe + \vartheta_4 Age + \vartheta_5 Education + \vartheta_6 Income\_Source + \vartheta_7 Gender + e_{2i} \quad (3)$$

Where $Prob(Divorce_i)$ is the probability of a drug abuse by a consumer in the i[th] household being divorced after drug misuse. ϑ_i $(i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, 7)$ are the regression parameters to be estimated, while e_{2i} is the error term. The variables are the same as in equation (2) above.

RESULTS

Demographic Statistics of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents are reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive data of the respondents

	Frequency	%
Gender		
Male	213	50.71
Female	207	49.29
Total	**420**	**100.00**
Age		
Below 30 years	101	24.05
30 to 39 years	89	21.19
40 to 49 years	29	6.90
50 to 59 years	105	25
60 years and above	96	22.86
Total	**420**	**100.00**
Marital status		
Single	116	27.62
Married	132	31.43
Divorced	79	18.81
Widowed	93	22.14
Total	**420**	**100.00**
Level of Education		
FSLC	-	-
WAEC/WASSC	32	7.62
B.Sc.	92	21.90
Masters	71	16.90
PhD	40	9.52
OND	60	14.29
HND	95	22.62
Others	30	7.15
Total	**420**	**100**

Source: Authors' computation, 2023

213 or 50.71% of the respondents were males, while the rest 207 or 49.29% were females. This mean that majority of the respondents are males. And 101 or 24.05% of the respondents were below 30 years of age, between the ages of 30 to 39 years were 89 or 21.19%. Similarly, 29 or 6.90% of the respondents were between the ages of 40 to 49 years;

between 50 to 59 years of age were 105 or 25%. Those who were 60 years of age and above were 96, representing about 22.86% of the total respondents. Concerning the marital status of the respondents, single was 116, representing 27.62% of the total respondents. Also, 132 or 31.43% of the respondents are married, while 79 or 18.81% of the respondents are divorced. Those who are widowed were 93, which is 22.14% of the total respondents. The respondents' level of education showed that none of the respondents had a first school living certificate as the highest level of education attained. While, 32 or 7.62% of the respondents had a senior school certificate as the highest level of education, while those whose highest education level is B.Sc. were 92 or 21.90%. on the same vein, 71 of the respondents, representing 16.90% of the total respondents had a Master's Degree as the highest level of education attained; 40 or 9.52% had a PhD; 60 or 14.29% had an ordinary national diploma; and 95 or 22.62% had a higher national diploma as the highest certificate attained. Also, 30 or 7.15% of the respondents had other forms of educational qualifications.

Other characteristics presented in Figure 1 shows that 30 or 7.15% of the respondents are of the view that Heroin is the most consumed drug; 2 or 2.06% believe that Cocaine is the most consumed drug, while 3 or 3.09% of the respondents considered Crack as the most consumed drug. Those who saw Marijuana as the most consumed drug are 2 or 2.06% and 2 or 2.06% also pointed to Inhalants as the most consumed drug. Also, 1 or 1.03% of the respondents considered Hallucinogens as the most consumed drug, 54 or 55.67% of the respondents believed that Alcohol is the most consumed drug, while those who believed that Tobacco is the most consumed drug were 25 or 25.77%. Also, 1 or 1.03% of the respondents said Codeine/Cough Syrup is the most consumed drug, and 2 or 2.06% of the respondents considered Shisha as the most consumed drug. Thus, majority of the respondents believed that Alcohol is the most consumed drug.

Concerning the drugs that affect consumers negatively most, 9 or 9.28% of the respondents said Heroin; 34 or 35.05% were of the view that Cocaine affect consumers negatively most; 8 or 8.25% pointed to crack as having the most negative effect, while 22 or 22.68 believed that Marijuana has the most negative effect. Those who considered Inhalants to have the most negative effect were 5 or 5.15% of the total respondents, 5 or 5.15% of the respondents also believed that Hallucinogens have the most negative effect, while another 5 or 5.15% of the respondents were of the view that Alcohol has the most negative effect. Also, 4 or 4.12% believed that Tobacco has the most negative effect, 3 or 3.09% of the total respondents considered Codeine/Cough Syrup to be the drug that has the most negative effect, while 2 or 2.06% said Shisha has the most negative effect among all the drug. This reveal that majority of the respondents considered Cocaine to be the drug that has the most negative effect among all the drug.

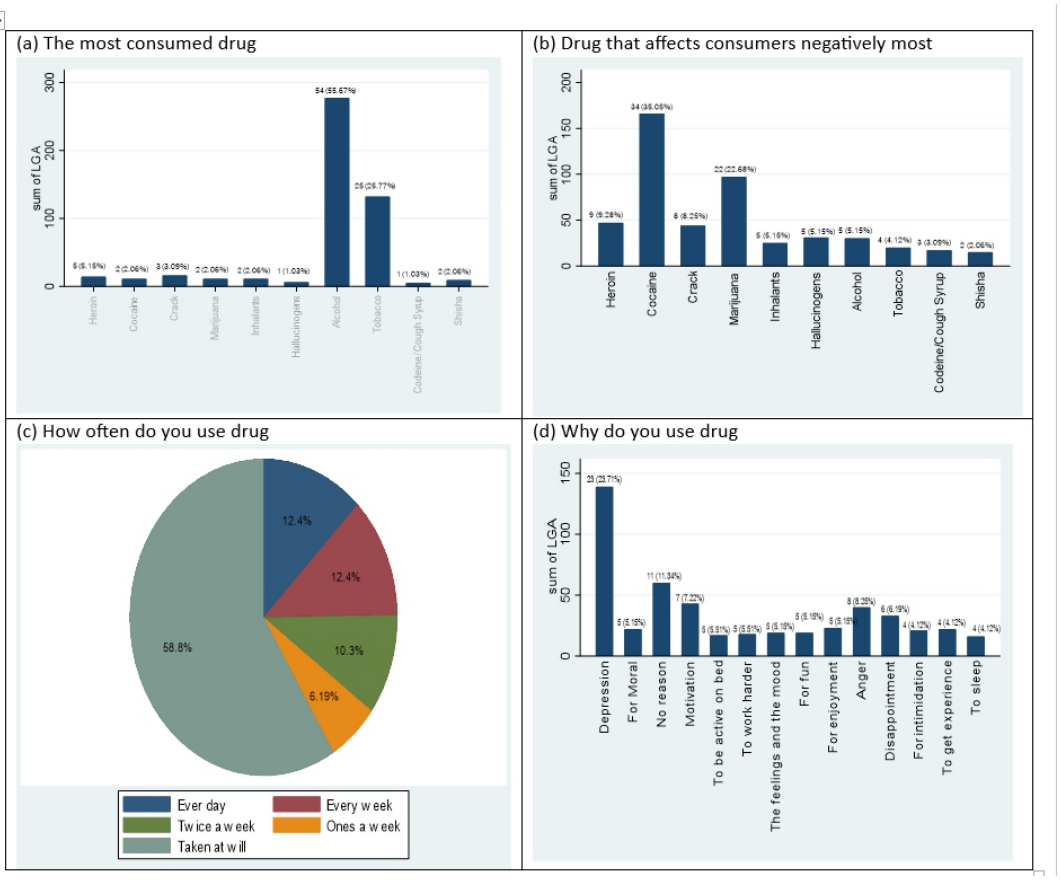

Figure 1: Other characteristics of the respondents. Source: plot by the authors, 2023

Concerning how often drug is taken, the analysis shows that 12 or 12.37% of the respondents believed that drug is used on an everyday basis, another 12 or 12.37% of the respondent said drug is used every week, while those who said drug is used twice a week were 10 or 10.31% of the total respondents. Also, 6 or 6.19% of the respondents are of the view that drug is used once a week, and 57 or 58.76% of the respondents said drug is taken at will. This is an indication that majority of respondents agree that drug is used or taken at will.

An examination of the reasons for the use of drug showed that 23 or 23.71% of the respondents said it is used because of depression, 5 or 5.15 believed it is used for moral reasons, 11 or 11.34% of the respondents were of the view that it is used for no specific reasons, while 7 or 7.22% of the respondents said it is used for motivation. Also, 5 or 5.15 believed that it is taken to be active on the bed, another 5 or 5.15 said that drug is used to work harder, while 5 or 5.15 also considered feelings and mood as reason for the use of drug. Similarly, 5 or 5.15 said it is for fun, and another 5 or 5.15% said it is for enjoyment. While, 8 or 8.25% of the respondents said it is taken at times of anger and 6 or 6.19 of the

respondents believe that the reason for the use of drug is because of disappointment, 4 or 4.12 saw the reason to be intimidation, another 4 or 4.12 said it is taken just to get experience, while 4 or 4.12 were of the view that it is taken to sleep. This mean that majority of the respondents believed that drug is taken when the consumer is depressed.

The analysis of some of the respondents' characteristics showed that 57 or 58.76% of the respondents take drug at will, while 6 or 6.19% of the consumers do take drug once a week. 10 or 10.31% of the consumers consume drug twice a week, 12 or 12.37% of the consumers do consume drug every week, while another 12 or 12.37% of the respondents take drug every day. This implies that the majority of the respondents take drug at will.

Also, 63 or 64.95% of the respondent who is drug consumers takes drug without a medical doctor's prescription, while those who consume drug based on a medical doctor's prescription were 34 or 35.05%. This means that a majority of the respondents who consume drug take it without any medical doctor's prescription.

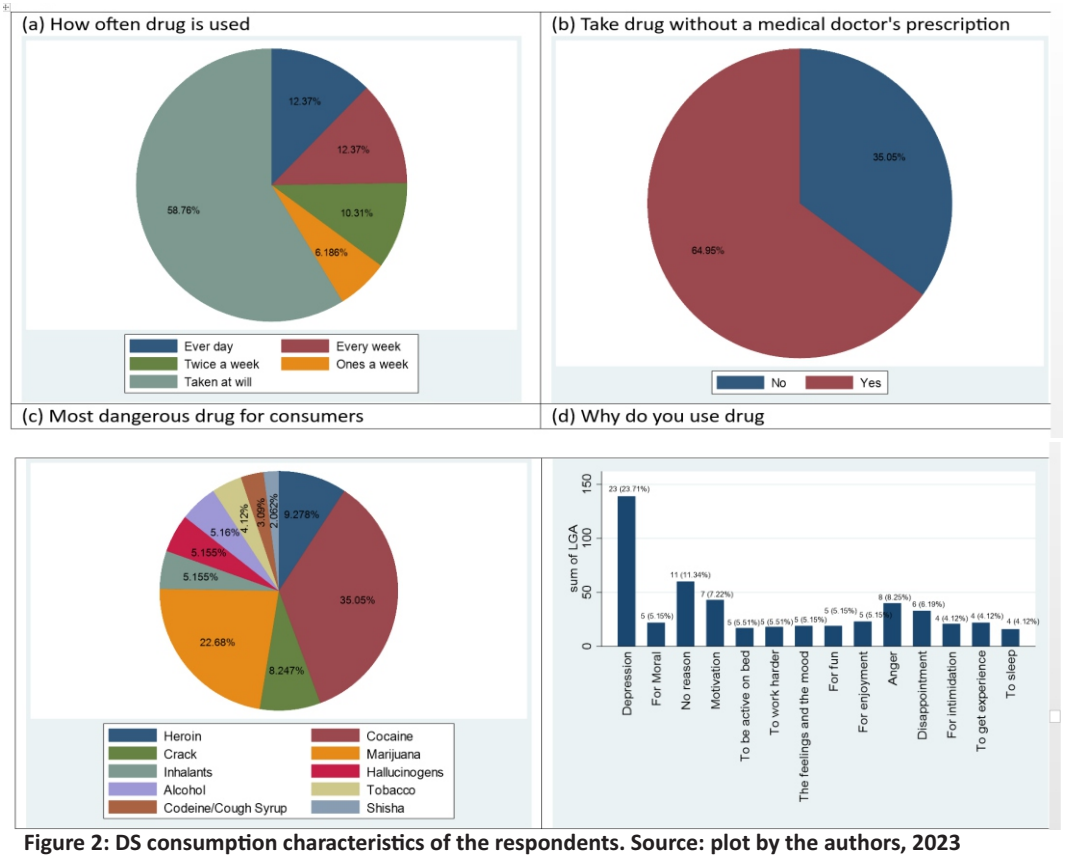

Figure 2: DS consumption characteristics of the respondents. Source: plot by the authors, 2023

9 or 9.28% were of the view that Heroin is the drug that affects consumers most negatively, while 34 or 34.05% believed that Cocaine has the most negative effect on consumers. Those who considered Crack to be the drug that has the most negative effect were 8 or 8.25, while 22 or 22.68% thought that Marijuana has the most negative impact on consumers. 5 or 5.15% stated that Inhalants are the drug that has the most negative impact on consumers, and another 5 or 5.15% believed that Hallucinogens are the drug that has the most negative impact on consumers. Those who viewed Alcohol to be the drug that has the most negative impact on consumers were 5 or 15%. 4 or 4.12% pointed to Tobacco as the drug that has the most negative impact on consumers, 3 or 3.09 stated that Codeine/Cough Syrup is the drug that has the most negative impact, while 2 or 2.06% considered Shisha to be the drug that has the most negative impact. This shows that the majority of the respondents are of the view that Cocaine is the drug that has the most negative impact on consumers.

Also, those that used drug for depression reasons 23 or 23.71%, while 5 or 5.15% used drug to gather morale. 11 or 11.34% said that drug is consumed for no specific reason, 7 or 7.22 stated that it is for motivation, 5 or 5.15 stated that drug is taken to be active on the bed, while another 5 or 5.15 used it to work harder. Also, 5 or 5.15 takes drug because of their feelings and mood, another 5 or 5.15% take it for fun, and those that take it for enjoyment purposes were also 5, representing 5.15% of the total respondents. 8 or 8.25% counted anger as the reason for consuming drug, 6 or 6.19% takes drug because of disappointment, 4 or 4.12% takes it to intimidate non-consumers, another 4 or 4.12% takes drug to get experience drug consumption, while another 4 or 4.12% pointed to having enough sleep as the reason for drug consumption. Therefore, a majority of the respondents consume drug because of depression.

DISCUSSION

The impact of drug misuse on divorces was examined using the logistic regression model. Also, for the robustness of findings, the study estimated a Probit model. Table 2 reports the regression estimates. Column (1) is the odds ratios of the logistic regression with the z-values and p-values in parenthesis. Column (2), on the other hand, presents the coefficients of the Probit regression with the z-values and p-values shown in parenthesis.

Any increase in drug consumption leads to an insignificant increase in the rate of divorces by 1.12 per cent in column (1). A similar result is found in column (2). In other words, drug consumption is not yet a significant determinant of the rate of divorcing in the state, but with the positive coefficient, there is the likelihood of drug consumption causing the divorce rate if not checkmated properly and timely.

The coefficient for the frequency of drug usage is 0.8020 for column (1) and 0.1330 for column (2) with insignificant z-values of 1.28 and 1.34 respectively. If drug is used once a week or more, the

Table 2: Estimates of the impact of drug misuse on devices in Bayelsa state

	(1)	(2)
Divorces	**Logistic Regression**	**Probit Regression**
Consumption of Drug	1.1208 (z = 0.86) (p = 0.389)	0.0634 (z = 0.79) (p = 0.430)
How often Drug is used	0.8020 (z = 1.28) (p = 0.201)	0.1330 (z = 1.34) (p = 0.182)
The use of Drug without medical doctors' prescription	0.8038 (z = 0.44) (p = 0.659)	0.1342 (z = 0.45) (p = 0.655)
Age	- 0.7678 (z = -3.27) (p = 0.000)	- 0.1575 (z = - 3.31) (p = 0.000)
Education	-0.9324 (z = -2.58) (p = 0.002)	-0.452 (z = -2.63) (p = 0.000)
Source of income	-0.5047 (z = -2.66) (p = 0.009)	-0.3994 (z = -3.69) (p = 0.000)
Gender	2.3150 (z = 3.76) (p = 0.000)	0.5041 (z = 3.77) (p = 0.000)
Constant	12.2755 (z = 1.71) (p = 0.088)	1.5523 (z = 1.76) (p = 0.079)
	Logistic Regression	**Probit regression**
Pseudo R2	0.6856	0.6866
LR chi2(11)	30.53	30.65
Prob > chi2	0.000	0.0000
_hat	0.38 (z = 3.65) (p = 0.000)	-0.34 (z = -3.54) (p = 0.000)
_hatsq	-0.45 (z = -1.18) (p = 0.239)	-0.73 (z = -1.18) (p = 0.237)
Probit model goodness-of-fit test		
Pearson chi2(75)	87.74 (p = 0.1491)	87.56 (p = 0.1522)

Source: Authors' computation, 2023

impact of drug on the divorce rate is 0.80% insignificantly more than when drug is used once a week. It means that how often drug is used is an insignificant determinant of the rate of divorce. However, since the coefficient is positive, it is safe to say that drug is directly related to the rate of divorce. The effect of the frequency of usage is a positive determinant but not significant and could likely significantly increase the rate of divorce if not properly managed.

The use of drugs without a medical doctor's prescription also has an insignificant impact on the rate of divorce. The result shows that any consumption of drug without a medical doctor's prescription results in an increase in the rate of divorce by 0.80% in column (1). This implies that, though not significant, drug misuse could increase the rate of divorce. A similar result is found in column (2), indicating that an increase in the use of drug without a medical doctor's prescription contributes to an insignificant increase in the rate of divorce.

The coefficient for age is -0.7678 with a z-value of -3.27 in column (1). This implies that the impact of drug

consumption on the rate of divorce is about 0.77% significantly less if the drug consumer is 60 years and above than the impact of drug consumption on the divorce rate if the consumer is below 30 years of age, 30 to 39 years, 40 to 49 years, or 50 to 59 years of age. This also means that the age of the drug consumer is a significant determinant of the rate of divorce. The negative value could also mean that the older the consumer, the more responsible and the less drug is consumed and, therefore, the reduction in the rate of divorce. Column (2) also confirms the result in column (1), with a negative coefficient and a significant z-value.

Concerning the level of education in column (1), as shown by the negative and significant z-value, the impact of drug consumption on the rate of divorce is significantly lower by about 0.93% if the drug consumer is a PhD degree holder, than the impact on the rate of divorce if the drug consumer's highest level of education is senior school certificate, ordinary national diploma, etc. That is, drug consumption by a more educated person could result in less divorce rate than a drug consumption by a less educated person. Also, in column (2), the result confirms that the impact of drug consumption on the divorce rate is inversely related to the level of education of the drug consumer.

In both columns, the source of income variable appears negative and significant. An improvement in the source of income of the drug consumer brings about a 0.50% per cent significant reduction in the rate of divorce. The higher the number of drug consumers with good income sources, the lower the divorce rate. This means that for those who consume drug, an improvement or increment in their income sources would reduce the rate of divorce among them.
The gender coefficient in both columns is positive and statistically significant at the 5% level. Specifically, an increase in drug consumption by a female has a divorce rate of 2.32% higher than a DS consumption by a male. This implies that a drug consumption by a female has a higher impact on the divorce rate than a drug consumption by a male.

The Pseudo R^2 presented in column (1) shows that the variables in the model explain approximately 68.56% change in the divorce rate. The likelihood chi-square value of 30.53 (p = 0.0000) means that the variables jointly significantly affect the rate of divorce. The p-value for hats is 0.239. The non-significant hatsq means good regression model adequacy. Also, the insignificant Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit test is evidence of the overall goodness of fit of the regression model. The test results in column (1) do not differ from column (2).

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper examined the relationship between drug misuse and divorce of consumers in Bayelsa state. Based on the analysis, it is concluded that drug consumption and misuse insignificantly increase the rate of divorces. The frequency of the use of drug is not a significant determinant of the rate of divorce of the drug consumer. The divorce rate is lower with older drug consumers than younger drug

consumers. The level of education of the drug consumer and the source of income also significantly determine the divorce rate among consumers. The paper, therefore, recommends that there should be a regular sensitization of the dangers associated with the use of drug, frequent consumption of drug and the use of drug without a medical doctor's prescription. Also, at both the national and state levels, laws concerning the regulation and management of drug consumption should be reviewed towards discouragement of the misuse of drug. Establishment of counselling centers and introduction of compulsory visitation of such center before and after marriage is also recommended. The recommendation is premise on the fact that drug misuse could bring about divorce in the future if not checkmated, though it is insignificant at the moment.

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