

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG  
GRADE 11 AND 12 LEARNERS IN SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN  
THOHOYANDOU AREA**

BY

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## ABSTRACT

This paper offers data on substance abuse among secondary school learners in grade eleven and twelve in selected secondary schools around Thohoyandou area. The study reviews the normative developmental transitions of adolescence and young adults, focusing specifically on biological and cognitive changes; transitions of identity; changes in affiliations with their family, peers, romantic partners, and their academic achievements in an attempt to identify factors that contribute towards substance abuse.

A sample of one hundred and twenty grade eleven and twelve learners was systematically selected for this study in two of the secondary schools around Thohoyandou Area. The data were collected by means of a questionnaire which sought data from respondents on background and biographical information, educational level, family characteristics, substance abuse scale, patterns of using drugs, suppliers of drugs and the relationship between criminal involvement and drug abuse. Due to the quantitative approach employed the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was utilized to analyze and interpret the data.

The findings of the study confirmed that learners are involved in substance abuse within and outside the school premises. Finally, the study's findings are discussed in relation to the articulated aims and objectives and recommendations for future research are suggested.