

Maternal Drug Use, Parenting, and Child Development in the North-East Senatorial District of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

By

Iniobong Monday Eduok

And

Mariam Ibrahim Omewun

Abstract

Drug use among women has gained increasing scholarly and policy attention due to its implications for family functioning and child wellbeing. However, empirical research in Nigeria has largely overlooked married mothers as a distinct population, despite their central role in caregiving and child socialisation. This study examined drug use among married mothers in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District and its impact on parenting responsibilities and child developmental outcomes. A descriptive cross-sectional survey design was adopted across the nine Local Government Areas in the district, using a purposive sample of forty-five (45) families (five families per LGA). Data were collected through structured questionnaire administered to married mothers, complemented by brief qualitative interviews for contextual insight. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and Pearson Product Moment Correlation, while qualitative data were analysed thematically. Findings revealed the use of substances such as illicit local gin (*ufofop*), marijuana-infused mixtures (“combine”), alcohol, and prescription drugs for non-medical purposes, with some practices culturally normalised within communities. Maternal drug use negatively affected key parenting responsibilities, particularly supervision, emotional responsiveness, and consistency in discipline. Children from affected households showed increased risks of behavioural problems, emotional instability, and reduced academic engagement. Correlation analysis indicated significant relationships between maternal drug use, weakened parenting practices, and adverse child developmental outcomes. Qualitative findings identified socioeconomic stress, marital strain, physical labour demands, and limited access to psychosocial support as major drivers of substance use among married mothers. The study concludes that drug use among married mothers is a family-level and child-centred social problem with intergenerational consequences. It recommends culturally sensitive, family-centred prevention and intervention strategies integrating substance-use education, mental health support, and parenting programmes.

Keywords: Married mothers, Drug use, Parenting responsibilities, Child development, Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District.

Background to the Study

Drug use remains a major public health and social concern globally, with consequences that extend beyond individual users to family systems and child wellbeing (Johnson et al., 2022; Ryan et al., 2019). While earlier studies focused largely on adolescents and male populations,

recent scholarship highlights women particularly married mothers whose substance use is often concealed by cultural expectations, stigma, and domestic responsibilities (Nelson, 2022). As primary caregivers in most societies, mothers play a central role in shaping parenting practices and influencing children's developmental trajectories; therefore, any compromise in their physical, emotional, or psychological wellbeing has significant implications for child outcomes.

In Nigeria, substance use has increased in prevalence and diversity, with alcohol, cannabis, prescription drug misuse, and other psychoactive substances becoming more accessible across social groups (Jatau et al., 2021; Soremekun et al., 2021). Socioeconomic stressors such as poverty, unemployment, marital strain, caregiving burden, and limited access to mental health services have been identified as major drivers of substance use among adults (Lee et al., 2015). For married mothers, these pressures are often intensified by traditional gender norms that assign primary responsibility for childcare, household management, and emotional labour to women, thereby increasing vulnerability to substance use as a coping mechanism and potentially undermining effective parenting.

Recent reports underscore the seriousness of the problem in Akwa Ibom State. A *Vanguard* Newspaper report of July 14, 2025, quoting the state Commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), described the rate of drug abuse as alarming. The report highlighted the growing normalisation of drug use, including mixtures of marijuana and alcohol popularly known as "combine," and revealed that over 804 kilograms of hard drugs were seized in 2025, with more than 300 suspects arrested. These figures indicate the scale of substance abuse and its expanding social and familial implications.

Parenting responsibilities such as supervision, emotional support, discipline, provision of basic needs, and moral guidance are critical for healthy child development. When compromised by maternal drug use, parent-child interactions may deteriorate. International studies link maternal substance use with inconsistent parenting, reduced emotional responsiveness, neglect, and impaired attachment, which are associated with cognitive delays, emotional and behavioural problems, poor academic performance, and social maladjustment in children. Child development, encompassing physical, cognitive, emotional, and social domains, is strongly shaped by the immediate family environment (Panjeti-Madan & Ranganathan, 2023; Bush et al., 2020). Children exposed to disrupted caregiving due to substance use are particularly vulnerable during early and middle childhood (Otten et al., 2018; Punamäki et al., 2021). In Nigeria, where formal child

welfare systems are limited and families remain the primary agents of socialisation, the effects may be even more pronounced.

Although studies in Akwa Ibom State have examined substance use among women, they have largely focused on young and unmarried women. For example, Effiong (2019) documented high drug use among this group, particularly in relation to pregnancy termination, with limited attention to married mothers and the implications for parenting and child development. Despite growing concern about substance abuse in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District, married mothers remain under-researched.

Accordingly, this study investigates drug use among married mothers in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District and its effects on parenting responsibilities and child developmental outcomes, with the aim of generating context-specific evidence to inform policy and strengthen family-based interventions.

Statement of the Problem

Drug use is an increasing public health and social concern in Nigeria, extending its effects beyond individual users to families and children. Although commonly associated with youths and unmarried women, emerging evidence indicates rising substance use among married mothers, an alarming trend given their central role in child supervision, emotional support, and moral guidance. Reports by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency describe drug abuse in Akwa Ibom State as alarming, with growing normalisation of alcohol, cannabis, and related substances. Despite this, research has largely overlooked married mothers, particularly in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District, leaving limited empirical evidence on how maternal drug use affects parenting and child development. This gap constrains effective policy and intervention design, necessitating context-specific investigation into the family-level implications of substance use among married mothers.

Research Objectives

- 1 To determine common drug use, and its trends, among married mothers in Akwa Ibom Northeast Senatorial District?
- 2 To identify the types of drugs commonly used by married mothers in the study area.
- 3 To examine the socioeconomic, marital, and psychosocial factors associated with drug use among married mothers.
- 4 To assess the effects of drug use on parenting responsibilities among married mothers.

- 5 To examine the relationship between drug use among married mothers and child developmental outcomes in Akwa Ibom Northeast Senatorial District.

Research Questions

1. How common is drug use, and what are the trends, among married mothers in Akwa Ibom Northeast Senatorial District?
2. What types of drugs are commonly used by married mothers in Akwa Ibom Northeast Senatorial District?
3. What socioeconomic, marital, and psychosocial factors are associated with drug use among married mothers in the study area?
4. How does drug use among married mothers affect their parenting responsibilities?
5. What is the relationship between drug use among married mothers and child developmental outcomes in Akwa Ibom Northeast Senatorial District?

Literature Review

Drug and Substance Use

Drug or substance use refers to the consumption of psychoactive substances legal or illegal to alter mood, perception, or behaviour. Such use may occur without immediate functional impairment, especially at moderate levels (Martins, 2025; Newcomb & Bentler, 1989). Common substances include alcohol, cannabis, and prescription drugs used outside medical guidance (Martins, 2025; Alozai et al., 2019), with patterns shaped by accessibility, social acceptance, and perceived risk.

In Nigeria, substance use particularly among females has become a growing concern. Baduku (2025), drawing on Social Learning Theory, identifies socioeconomic status, family dynamics, peer pressure, mental health conditions, cultural norms, and media influence as key drivers of substance abuse among female adolescents, recommending coordinated government and NGO interventions to promote positive parenting and family support systems. Regionally, Donnenfeld et al. (2019), in *Drug Demand and Use in Africa: Modelling Trends to 2050*, project a major rise in drug demand across sub-Saharan Africa, estimating an additional 14 million users by 2050, with significant public health implications.

Collectively, these studies highlight the growing scale of substance use among female populations but reveal limited attention to married women and mothers, whose drug use may significantly affect parenting and child development an important gap this study addresses.

Parenting and Child Development

Parenting is central to child socialisation and development, as early family experiences shape emotional stability, social competence, and cognitive growth. Hanifa and Lestari (2024) emphasise that parental attention, affection, discipline, and guidance are critical to healthy personality development, despite modern challenges that limit parental engagement. Child development is multidimensional encompassing physical, emotional, social, and cognitive domains and reflects meaningful individual differences rather than mere inconsistency (Vereijken, 2010).

Development unfolds across stages with distinct needs, from attachment in infancy to autonomy, social competence, and identity formation in later years (Bijou, 1976; Frances, 2000). Effective parenting requires emotional responsiveness, active listening, and positive role modelling (Warshak, 2003; Eberbach & Crowley, 2017). Supervision is equally vital, involving protection, guidance, and value transmission by parents and other caregivers (Ruiz-Casares et al., 2024; Miconi et al., 2018), and inadequate supervision has been linked to injuries and risky behaviours (Pelham et al., 2024; O’Kane & Brussoni, 2024).

Child development may be understood as stage-based or continuous (Atalell et al., 2025; Lourenço, 2016; Pakpahan & Saragih, 2022), and is shaped not only by parenting but also by broader environmental factors such as nutrition, poverty, stress, and quality of parent–child relationships (Yoon, 2022; Gillman & Blaisdell, 2018). Overall, sustained parental involvement and supportive family environments remain fundamental to positive developmental outcomes.

Neglectful Parenting and Other Influences

Neglectful parenting, marked by poor supervision, limited emotional support, and failure to meet children’s needs has been widely linked to delinquency and adverse developmental outcomes, particularly in contexts of poverty and social strain. Okoro et al. (2025), applying General Strain Theory in a study of street children in Uyo, Eket, and Ikot Ekpene, found that parental poverty significantly weakens caregiving capacity and pushes children into delinquent activities such as theft, drug peddling, and gang involvement. Similarly, Eduok (2025), drawing

on Baumrind's Parenting Styles Theory and Hirschi's Social Control Theory, reported a significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting and delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Uyo, highlighting the risks associated with inadequate supervision and guidance.

Family structure and internal dynamics further shape child behaviour. Nwachukwu and Ikpong (2023) found that family size, type, parental education, and parenting style significantly influenced deviant behaviour among primary school pupils in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District. Broader socio-economic and environmental conditions also compound these risks. Eduok et al. (2022) linked socio-economic deprivation to street cultism and homelessness in Uyo, while Eduok (2024) showed that deteriorating urban environments weaken informal social control and indirectly promote crime. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that neglectful parenting is embedded within economic hardship, weak family systems, and adverse community conditions, all of which heighten children's vulnerability to delinquency and developmental harm.

Women, Drug use and consequences

Women's involvement in drug and substance use has become an increasingly significant public health and social concern, particularly in developing societies where gendered expectations intersect with structural vulnerabilities. Contemporary studies indicate a rising prevalence of drug use among women, driven by a combination of socio-economic stressors, cultural transitions, psychological distress, and limited access to gender-responsive prevention and treatment services (Owonikoko et al., 2021). This trend challenges traditional perceptions that substance abuse is predominantly a male phenomenon and calls for a more nuanced understanding of women's drug-use experiences and outcomes.

Nelson (2022) argues that discussions of drug-related harm must move beyond simplistic abstinence-only narratives to recognise the complexity of drug use practices, including controlled and situational use. However, while harm-reduction perspectives acknowledge individual agency, the consequences of drug use among women often extend beyond the individual to affect family stability, social functioning, and reproductive health. Kwaskebe, Atolagbe, and Kayode (2021) identify psychoactive substance use among women as a contributor to broader social vices, including domestic conflict, declining productivity, and mental health disturbances. Their findings suggest that psychoactive drugs impair cognitive functioning and emotional regulation, thereby increasing women's vulnerability to risky behaviours and social marginalisation.

Within the family context, drug use by women particularly wives and mothers has been shown to have profound implications for marital relationships and household stability. Okon and Akpan (n.d.), in their study of socio-religious variables and marital stability in Akwa Ibom State, highlight substance use as a destabilising factor that undermines trust, role performance, and emotional intimacy within marriage. Abdullahi et al. (2023) further explain that women's drug use may either strain or temporarily reinforce intimate relationships, depending on whether use is concealed, excessive, or shared with a partner. While some couples describe shared substance use as emotionally "uniting," others experience heightened conflict, neglect of domestic responsibilities, and increased risk of intimate partner violence (Pinto & Corradi-Webster, 2023). The consequences of women's drug use are particularly severe when consumption becomes chronic or intersects with other forms of structural disadvantage. Abdullahi et al. (2023) note that prolonged substance use among women is strongly associated with emotional instability, parenting difficulties, and social withdrawal. When combined with poverty, domestic violence, and limited social support, heavy drug use significantly increases the likelihood of marital breakdown, child neglect, and psychological trauma (Baheshmat et al., 2021). These outcomes underscore the gender-specific pathways through which substance abuse exacerbates existing inequalities and family stressors.

Reproductive and socio-cultural consequences also feature prominently in the literature. Afahakan et al. (2023), examining socio-cultural dynamics among couples in Oron Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, identify substance use as one of several factors linked to marital dissatisfaction and childlessness. In contexts where fertility is closely tied to social identity and marital legitimacy, women who use drugs may face intensified stigma, blame, and exclusion. This aligns with broader evidence that women's drug use is more harshly sanctioned socially than men's, often resulting in compounded emotional and social penalties.

Overall, the literature suggests that women's drug use must be understood within a broader socio-ecological framework that considers gender norms, marital dynamics, economic conditions, and cultural expectations. The consequences extend beyond health outcomes to include marital instability, reproductive challenges, parenting difficulties, and heightened exposure to violence. Effective interventions therefore require gender-sensitive policies that prioritise women's empowerment, access to mental health and substance-use services, and community-based support systems capable of addressing both the causes and consequences of drug use among women.

Theoretical Framework

Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977)

Social Learning Theory posits that behaviour is learned through observation, imitation, and reinforcement within social contexts, especially the family (Bandura, 1977; Rachmad, 2025). As primary caregivers, married mothers serve as key role models; thus, maternal drug use may be observed and normalised by children. When substance use leads to inconsistent discipline, reduced supervision, or emotional unavailability, children may internalise and reproduce such maladaptive behaviours. The theory therefore explains the intergenerational transmission of deviant behaviours and provides a framework for understanding how maternal drug use influences parenting practices and children's behavioural and social development (Bandura, 1977; Rachmad, 2025).

General Strain Theory (Agnew, 1992)

General Strain Theory argues that exposure to stressors increases the likelihood of maladaptive or deviant coping behaviours (Agnew, 1992; Cavanaugh & Humphrey, 2025; Dennison, 2025). Married mothers may face economic hardship, marital conflict, caregiving burden, and limited support, which can encourage substance use as a coping strategy. Such use weakens parenting effectiveness and emotional regulation, while children in strained environments may experience secondary stress affecting their behavioural and cognitive development. The theory thus explains the link between maternal stress, drug use, parenting challenges, and adverse child outcomes (Agnew, 1992; Cavanaugh & Humphrey, 2025; Dennison, 2025).

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional survey design, which is appropriate for examining the prevalence and patterns of drug use among married mothers and assessing its implications for parenting responsibilities and child developmental outcomes within a defined population at a single point in time. This design allows for the collection of data that reflect existing conditions without manipulating study variables.

Area of the Study

The study was carried out in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District, one of the three senatorial districts in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The district is made up of nine (9) Local

Government Areas (LGAs) and is characterised by a mix of urban and rural communities with diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

Population and Sample Size

The population of the study comprised married mothers with at least one school-age child residing within Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District. Using a purposive sampling approach, five (5) families were selected from each of the nine LGAs, resulting in a total sample size of forty-five (45) families.

Sampling Technique

A purposive sampling technique was employed to select respondents who met the study criteria. This technique ensured the inclusion of married mothers who were accessible, willing to participate, and capable of providing relevant information on drug use, parenting responsibilities, and child development. The approach enhanced the relevance, depth, and contextual accuracy of the data collected.

Instrument for Data Collection

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to married mothers. The questionnaire was divided into sections covering: socio-demographic characteristics of respondents; patterns and types of drug use; parenting responsibilities, including supervision, care, discipline, and emotional support; and child developmental outcomes, focusing on behavioural, emotional, social, and academic indicators.

In addition, brief interview sessions were conducted where necessary to complement questionnaire responses, clarify issues, and improve the validity and richness of the data.

Data Analysis

Data collected were coded and analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were used to summarise respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, patterns of drug use, parenting practices, and child developmental outcomes. Inferential analysis using Pearson Product Moment Correlation was employed to examine the relationships between maternal drug use, parenting responsibilities, and child developmental outcomes at a 0.05 level of

significance. Qualitative data obtained from interviews were analysed thematically to provide contextual explanations and support the quantitative findings.

Results

The following section outlines the study's conclusions, which are derived from data collected from forty-five married mothers in the nine Local Government Areas that constitute the Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District.

Table 1: Prevalence and Trends of Drug Use among Married Mothers

Drug Use Status	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Currently use drugs	28	62.2
Previously used drugs	9	20.0
Never used drugs	8	17.8
Total	45	100.0

Drug use is relatively common among married mothers in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District, with over three-fifths reporting current use. Interview narratives indicate increasing normalisation of substance use for coping with stress, pain, appetite, and sleep challenges.

Table 2: Types of Drugs Commonly Used by Married Mothers

Type of Drug Used	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Alcohol (local gin / illicit gin "ufofop")	21	46.7
Marijuana / marijuana-alcohol mixture ("combine")	17	37.8
Prescription drugs (non-medical use)	14	31.1
Herbal mixtures with psychoactive effects	11	24.4

Interpretation:

Alcohol, particularly illicit local gin, and marijuana-based mixtures are the most commonly used substances. Qualitative interviews show that many women perceive these substances as medicinal or culturally acceptable.

Table 3: Socioeconomic, Marital, and Psychosocial Factors Associated with Drug Use

Associated Factors	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Economic hardship / poverty	29	64.4
Physical exhaustion from farm or domestic labour	26	57.8
Marital stress or conflict	22	48.9
Caregiving burden / role overload	31	68.9
Sleep difficulties / insomnia	19	42.2
Emotional stress, anxiety, or frustration	24	53.3

Drug use among married mothers is strongly associated with structural and emotional stressors. Interviews confirm that substances are often used as coping mechanisms for pain relief, fatigue, appetite stimulation, and emotional strain.

Table 4: Effects of Drug Use on Parenting Responsibilities

Parenting Responsibility Affected	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Reduced supervision of children	27	60.0
Inconsistent discipline	23	51.1
Reduced emotional responsiveness	25	55.6
Poor engagement in children's schooling	21	46.7
Increased irritability or impatience	24	53.3

Interpretation:

Maternal drug use significantly compromises parenting quality, particularly supervision, emotional availability, and discipline. Although some mothers view substance use as functional, its indirect effects weaken caregiving consistency.

Table 5: Relationship between Maternal Drug Use and Child Developmental Outcomes

Child Developmental Outcome	r-value	p-value	Decision
Behavioural problems	0.61	0.002	Significant
Emotional instability	0.58	0.004	Significant

Poor academic performance	0.54	0.007	Significant
Social adjustment difficulties	0.49	0.013	Significant

Significance level: $p < 0.05$

There is a statistically significant positive relationship between maternal drug use and adverse child developmental outcomes. Higher levels of maternal drug use are associated with increased behavioural, emotional, academic, and social difficulties among children.

Findings

The study found that drug use among married mothers in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District is an emerging social concern with significant implications for family functioning and child wellbeing. Both quantitative and qualitative evidence indicate increasing normalisation of substances such as illicit local gin (ufofop), marijuana-infused mixtures, and non-medical use of prescription drugs. Many mothers justified use based on cultural beliefs relating to pain relief, stress reduction, and coping with domestic and emotional strain. Respondents also noted weakening traditional social controls and growing visibility of substance use within households, exposing children to maladaptive behavioural models.

Findings further show that maternal drug use negatively affects supervision, emotional responsiveness, and discipline. Although often perceived as harmless, substance use was associated with reduced parental attentiveness and patience, leading to adverse child outcomes, particularly in behaviour and academic engagement. Socioeconomic pressures—poverty, marital stress, role overload, and limited support—were identified as key drivers, aligning with General Strain Theory. Overall, the results demonstrate that maternal drug use is not merely an individual issue but a broader family and child development problem with intergenerational consequences.

Conclusion

This study investigated drug use among married mothers in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District and its effects on parenting and child development. Findings show that, although often hidden due to stigma and cultural expectations, substance use exists among married mothers and includes marijuana-alcohol mixtures (“combine”), alcohol, and non-medical use of prescription drugs. Maternal drug use was found to significantly weaken key parenting responsibilities such as supervision, emotional responsiveness, discipline, and involvement in children’s academic and social lives.

Both correlational and qualitative evidence reveal a strong link between maternal substance use, compromised parenting practices, and negative child outcomes, particularly in behaviour, emotional stability, and school performance. Socioeconomic stress, marital strain, caregiving burden, and limited psychosocial support were identified as major contributing factors. The study therefore concludes that maternal drug use is not merely an individual health issue but a broader

family and child development concern requiring family-centred prevention and intervention strategies.

Recommendations

1. Government agencies, health institutions, and non-governmental organisations should implement community-based, family-centred drug prevention and rehabilitation programmes specifically targeting married mothers, integrating substance-use education with parenting support and child welfare services.
2. Traditional rulers, religious leaders, community chiefs, and women's groups should be actively engaged in culturally sensitive awareness campaigns and community-led counselling and referral systems to address the growing normalisation of drug use among women and mothers.
3. Parenting education and skills-training programmes should be incorporated into existing drug abuse prevention initiatives, with emphasis on supervision, emotional bonding, discipline, and the developmental consequences of maternal substance use for children.
4. Primary healthcare systems should be strengthened to provide accessible mental health and psychosocial support services for married mothers, addressing underlying issues such as stress, fatigue, pain, depression, and sleep problems that predispose women to substance use.
5. Policymakers should formally recognise married mothers as a distinct and vulnerable group in drug control and public health policies, adopting gender-responsive and culturally sensitive approaches that reduce stigma and encourage early help-seeking for the benefit of families and children.

References

- Abdullahi, A., Abidemi, O., & Ntozini, A. (2023). Drug addiction and marital conflicts: Exploring the experiences of drug-addicted wives in Abuja, Nigeria. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/crq.21410>.
- Adams, A., Otu, M., , L., , B., & , P. (2020). Customary Law Marriage Practice in Nigeria: Women and Human Rights. *The Journal of Social Sciences Research*, 6, 272-275. <https://doi.org/10.32861/jssr.63.272.275>.
- Afahakan, H. A., Ekanem, J. B., & Oko, A. E. (2023). *Socio-cultural impact of childlessness on married couples in Oron Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State*. Sapientia Foundation Journal of Education, Sciences and Gender Studies, 6(1), 135–142.
- Agwogie, M., Kliewer, W., & Ibrahim, M. (2023). Predictors of substance use disorder symptoms among women in Katsina State, Nigeria.. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 247, 109866 . <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2023.109866>.

- Ali, P., McGarry, J., & Maqsood, A. (2020). Spousal Role Expectations and Marital Conflict: Perspectives of Men and Women. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37, NP7082 - NP7108. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520966667>.
- Alozai, U., Sharma, S., Franckowiak, B., & Toney-Butler, T. (2019). *Drug and alcohol use*. In StatPearls Publishing. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK537057>
- Atalell, K., Pereira, G., Duko, B., Nyadanu, S., & Tessema, G. (2025). Perinatal and Childhood Risk Factors of Adverse Early Childhood Developmental Outcomes: A Systematic Review Using a Socioecological Model. *Children*, 12. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children12081096>.
- Baduku, S. A. (2025). Factors influencing substance abuse among female adolescents in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Criminology and Security Studies*, 1(1), 200.
- Ben, Victor Effiong (2019). Evaluation of Drug Use and its Risks among Young Girls and Unmarried Women in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 4(2): 302-315.
- Beatrix Vereijken, (2010) The Complexity of Childhood Development: Variability in Perspective, *Physical Therapy*, Volume 90, Issue 12, 1 December 2010, Pages 1850–1859, <https://doi.org/10.2522/ptj.20100019>
- Bush, N., Wakschlag, L., LeWinn, K., Hertz-Picciotto, I., Nozadi, S., Pieper, S., Lewis, J., Biezonski, D., Blair, C., Deardorff, J., Neiderhiser, J., Leve, L., Elliott, A., Duarte, C., Lugo-Candelas, C., O’Shea, T., Page, G., & Posner, J. (2020). Family Environment, Neurodevelopmental Risk, and the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Initiative: Looking Back and Moving Forward. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 11. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2020.00547>.
- Bijou, S. W. (1976). *Child development: The basic stage of early childhood*. Prentice-Hall.
- Dennison, C. R. (2025). Emotional invalidation: an integration with Agnew’s general strain theory. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 1-15.
- Donnenfeld, Z., Bello-Schünemann, J., & Wellborn, L. (2019). Drug demand and use in Africa: Modelling trends to 2050 (ENACT Research Paper 09). ENACT: Enhancing Africa’s Response to Transnational Organised Crime. <https://enact-africa.s3.amazonaws.com/site/uploads/2019-08-28-drug-demand-and-use-in-africa-reaseach-paper-cb.pdf>
- Eberbach, C., & Crowley, K. (2017). From seeing to observing: How parents and children learn to see science in a botanical garden. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 26(4), 608-642.

- Eduok, I. M. (2024). Exploring the connection between abandoned buildings and crime in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. In Environmental sustainability, economic development, and conflict resolution (p. 79) GVU-2024-International-conference-book-of-proceedings.
- Eduok, I. M., Ocheja, A., Yusuf, A. T., & Tijjani, H. (2022). Socio-economic factors, street cultism, streetism, and the rise of homeless children in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. *NOUN Journal of Criminology and Security Studies* Vol. 3 No. 2, July to December 2022
- Eduok, I. M. (2025). An evaluation of laissez-faire parenting style and delinquent behaviours amongst selected secondary school students in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Criminology and Security Studies*, 4(1), 125–139.
- Frances. D/ H, (2000) Child Development and the PITS: Simple Questions, Complex Answers, and Developmental Theory, *Child Development*, Volume 71, Issue 1, January/February 2000, Pages 1–10, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8624.00112>
- Gillman, M., & Blaisdell, C. (2018). Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes, a Research Program of the National Institutes of Health. *Current Opinion in Paediatrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/mop.0000000000000600>.
- Hanifa, D. S., & Lestari, T. (2024). Nurturing child personality: The crucial role of parental influence. *EDUCATIONE*, 15-20
- Hussayn, U. Idris. & Tyagher M. (2023). The Impact of Bride Price Payment on Women's Autonomy in Marital Relationship in Ankpa, Kogi State, Nigeria. *NIU Journal of Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.58709/niujs.v9i1.1612>.
- Ja'far, A., & Hermanto, A. (2021). Reinterpretation of the Rights and Duties of Contemporary Husbands and Wives. *Samarah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga dan Hukum Islam*. <https://doi.org/10.22373/sjhc.v5i2.9124>.
- Lye, D., & Biblarz, T. (1993). The Effects of Attitudes Toward Family Life and Gender Roles on Marital Satisfaction. *Journal of Family Issues*, 14, 157 - 188. <https://doi.org/10.1177/019251393014002002>.
- Lourenço, O. (2016). Developmental stages, Piagetian stages in particular: A critical review☆. *New Ideas in Psychology*, 40, 123-137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.newideapsych.2015.08.002>.
- Martins, S. (2025). Substance Use in a University Population: The Implications of Perceived Social Anxiety and Depression. *International Journal of Economics, Business and Social Science Research*. <https://doi.org/10.37602/ijebssr.2025.3303>.

- Miconi, D., Beeman, I., Robert, E., Beatson, J., & Ruiz-Casares, M. (2018). Child supervision in low- and middle-income countries: A scoping review. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.04.040>.
- Nelson, E. (2022). Nuancing Drug Harms: Exploring the Context of Substance Use Among Street-Involved Women in Uyo, Nigeria. *Contemporary Drug Problems*, 49, 339 - 355. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00914509221127444>.
- Newcomb, M., & Bentler, P. (1989). Substance use and abuse among children and teenagers. *The American psychologist*, 44 2, 242-8. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066x.44.2.242>.
- Nnubia, U. I., Ibeanu, V. N., & Okechukwu, F. O. (2025). Marital structure and domestic gender role practice: implications for subjective well-being of working mothers teaching in Nigerian primary schools. *Community, Work & Family*, 28(2), 209–232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2023.2230347>
- Nwachukwu, K. E., & Ikpong, J. I. (2023). Family variables and deviant behaviour among primary school pupils in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District. *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science*, 11(5), 131–142.
- Okoro, S. A., Okorie, E. J., & Ukommi, A. S. (2025). Parental poverty and delinquent behaviour among street children in major towns in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. *Ibom Journal of Social Issues*, 14(1), 35
- Okon, C. E. O., & Akpan, A. E. (n.d.). Socio-religious variables and marital stability in Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District of Akwa Ibom State. *GASPRO International Journal of Eminent Scholars*.
- O'Kane, M., & Brussoni, M. (2024). Supervisory Neglect: Critical questions regarding child supervision and protection system responses. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2024.107473>.
- Owonikoko, S., Suleiman, J., Maibaka, W., & Tasiu, N. (2021). “What a man can do, a woman can do better”: women farmers, livelihood and drug abuse in Adamawa State, northeastern Nigeria. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*, 22, 3 - 28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332640.2021.1871694>.
- Panjeti-Madan, V., & Ranganathan, P. (2023). Impact of Screen Time on Children's Development: Cognitive, Language, Physical, and Social and Emotional Domains. *Multimodal Technol. Interact.*, 7, 52. <https://doi.org/10.3390/mti7050052>.
- Pakpahan, F., & Saragih, M. (2022). Theory Of Cognitive Development By Jean Piaget. *Journal of Applied Linguistics*. <https://doi.org/10.52622/joal.v2i2.79>.

- Pelham, W., Racz, S., Davis, I., Aks, I., Patel, H., McMahon, R., Thornburg, M., Huang, Y., Schulze, E., Gonzalez, O., Tapert, S., & Brown, S. (2024). What is Parental Monitoring?. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 27, 576 - 601. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-024-00490-7>.
- Pinto, A., & Corradi-Webster, C. (2023). Women, intimate relationships and drug use: experiences and meanings. *Estudos de Psicologia (Campinas)*. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1982-0275202340e220130en>.
- Punamäki, R., Flykt, M., Belt, R., & Lindblom, J. (2021). Maternal substance use disorder predicting children's emotion regulation in middle childhood: the role of early mother-infant interaction. *Heliyon*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e06728>.
- Ruiz-Casares, M., Phommavong, S., Park, S., & Douangphachanh, M. (2024). 'Supervising children to be good people': Parents and children's views of child supervision in Laos. *Child & Family Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.13140>.
- Rachmad, Y. E. (2025). Social Learning Theory. *United Nations Economic and Social Council*.
- Ryan, J., Smeltzer, S., & Sharts-Hopko, N. (2019). Challenges to Studying Illicit Drug Users. *Journal of nursing scholarship: an official publication of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jnu.12486>.
- Otten, R., Mun, C., Shaw, D., Wilson, M., & Dishion, T. (2018). A developmental cascade model for early adolescent-onset substance use: the role of early childhood stress. *Addiction (Abingdon, England)*, 114, 326 - 334. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.14452>.
- Lee, J., Hill, K., Hartigan, L., Boden, J., Guttmanova, K., Kosterman, R., Bailey, J., & Catalano, R. (2015). Unemployment and substance use problems among young adults: Does childhood low socioeconomic status exacerbate the effect? *Social science & medicine*, 143, 36-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.08.016>.
- Jatau, A., Sha'aban, A., Gulma, K., Shitu, Z., Khalid, G., Isa, A., Wada, A., & Mustapha, M. (2021). The Burden of Drug Abuse in Nigeria: A Scoping Review of Epidemiological Studies and Drug Laws. *Public Health Reviews*, 42. <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2021.1603960>.
- Soremekun, R., Omole, O., Adeyemi, O., & Oshatimi, A. (2021). Assessment of use of psychoactive and other non-prescription drugs among students of selected tertiary institutions in Ekiti State South West Nigeria - A baseline study. *Heliyon*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e06232>.
- vanguard news of July 14, 2025, with headlines; NDLEA decries high rate of drug abuse in Akwa Ibom state [NDLEA decries high rate of drug abuse in A'ibom - Vanguard News](#)

- Johnson, K., Pinchuk, I., Melgar, M., Agwogie, M., & Silva, F. (2022). The global movement towards a public health approach to substance use disorders. *Annals of Medicine*, 54, 1797 - 1808. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2022.2079150>.
- Weimand, B., Birkeland, B., Ruud, T., & Høie, M. (2020). “It’s like being stuck on an unsafe and unpredictable rollercoaster”: Experiencing substance use problems in a partner. *Nordisk Alkohol- & Narkotikatidsskrift : NAT*, 37, 227 - 242. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1455072520904652>.
- Wulansari, D., & Krisnatuti, D. (2023). Marital interaction and marital role on marital satisfaction of dual earner family with school age children. *Journal of Child, Family, and Consumer Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.29244/jcfcs.2.2.126-137>.
- Warshak, R. A. (2003). *Payoffs and pitfalls of listening to children*. *Family Relations*, 52(4), 373–384. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3729.2003.00373.x>
- Yu, J. (2024). Longitudinal dyadic interplay between marital conflict and psychological well-being in couples: The moderating roles of Wives' employment. *Personal Relationships*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/per.12544>.
- Yoon, S. (2022). Understanding Family Risk and Protective Factors That Shape Child Development. *Children*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children9091344>.