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| Journal Name: | [Asian Journal of Sociological Research](https://journalsociology.com/index.php/AJSR) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJSR\_2023** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **INFLUENCE OF GENDER, SELF- ESTEEM AND SOCIAL SUPPORT ON DRUG ABUSE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN NIGERIA** |
| Type of the Article | Original research Article |

PART 1: Comments

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|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | An attempt to demonstrate some interplay between social support, self-esteem, gender, and drug abuse among Nigerian university students. The findings somehow contribute to the global discourse on substance abuse prevention by emphasizing the role of contextual and psychosocial factors. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The topic looks adequate for purpose however; it could be refined to reflect: *Peer Networks and Substance Use: The Dual Role of Social Support in Nigerian Universities* | Done as suggested |
| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | Generally, well structured but should be enriched by:   * Start by stating the problem before jumping to the methods. E.g “Drug abuse among Nigerian university students is a growing public health concern, yet the roles of psychosocial factors remain poorly understood” * The positive link between self-esteem/social support and drug abuse is should come out clearly in the results section * Keywords like "university students" and "gender" are too broad. Consider their replacement with words like “Peer Influence “Psychosocial Predictors etc | Done |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | The manuscript appears to follow some scientific rigor for standard publishing-like structure, theoretical orientation however, some potential issues are observed:   * Disconnect between the positive link between *self-esteem/social support* and drug abuse. * Lack of clarify on how the constructs were measured. The scales of measurement etc * Purposive sampling limits generalizability * The abstract reports "B = 0.799" for self-esteem but Table 4 shows "Beta = 0.887" (standardized vs. unstandardized coefficients). This discrepancy needs clarification * No mention of IRB approval or informed consent, though this may be implied | Corrected |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention**  **them in the review form.** | A mix of recent (2023–2025) and older sources, with a strong emphasis on Nigerian and African contexts with noticeable gaps in global comparative studies.   * Read the following articles for better comparison  1. **Patalay & Fitzsimons (2021)** (JAMA Psychiatry): Longitudinal study on self-esteem and substance use in adolescents. 2. **Keyes et al. (2022)** (Social Science & Medicine): Meta-analysis on social support and drug use across cultures 3. UNODC World Drug Report (2023): Updated global data on youth drug abuse trends.  * Need to cite the Likert’s scale * Add altleast 3 global citations and do a comparison to give a better picture on the global perspective | Effected |
| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | Even though the language and English quality of the manuscript are generally suitable for scholarly communication, there are a few areas that lack clarity, precision, and grammatical correctness.   * Example: "The study employed a descriptive survey research design with a population of 550 Psychology students from Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (Source; Departmental Admission List, 2025)." Revise to read *"The study employed a descriptive survey design with a population of 550 psychology students from Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (source: Departmental Admission List, 2025)."* * Verbosity: Some sentences are either too wordy or ambiguous e.g "The positive correlation between self-esteem and drug abuse is counterintuitive and might imply that self-esteem functions differently within a context that is more oriented toward collectivistic values amongst students." Revise to read: *"The positive correlation between self-esteem and drug abuse is counterintuitive, suggesting that self-esteem may operate differently in collectivistic cultural contexts."* * Correct the wrong citations and punctuation errors | Corrected |
| **Optional/General** comments | Overall, the manuscript is well-structured and scientifically sound, but requires minor language polishing for clarity and precision. Strengthen cultural context for counterintuitive findings and ensure consistent statistical reporting.  Recommended for revision |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |