**NAME:** AGBAJOR AGHOGHO

**MATRIC NUMBER:** 19/MHS01/051

**DEPARTMENT:** MEDICINE AND SURGERY (MBBS)

**COURSE:** GST 122

**ASSIGNMENT:** A RESEARCH ESSAY

**SOCIAL VICES AMONG NIGERIAN TEENAGERS TODAY**

***Abstract***

Social vices has become a pending matter which needs to be properly address in Nigeria today. This essay analyzes the social vices common to teenagers, including their causes, how such vices affects them and Nigeria at large, and how to eradicate such vices. This research shows how vulnerable the teenage child can be and how easy it is to mold ones future at a tender age. It was concluded that all hands must be on deck in order to stop this menace.

**INTRODUCTION**

What are social vices? “Social vices are those acts and conditions that violates the societal norms and values”

# Works Cited

Authentic. (2019, November 5). *Curbing the menance of social vices*. Retrieved from Authentic news giant Web site : https://authenticng.com/curbing-the-menance-of-social-vices/

The word ***vices*** is gotten from a Latin word called ***Vitium*** meaning imperfection, faults, defects and failings. According to the Collins English Dictionary, social means relating to society or how society is organized. Therefore social vices can also be defined as imperfections, faults, failings and defects in the society and its organization. This therefore implies to the faults and failings Nigerian teenagers’ exhibit in the society and how it affects every one of us.

There are so many social vices in Nigeria ranging from the little disrespectfulness of parents also called adolescent phase to the raping and murdering of innocent victims. These are some of the social vices, their causes, effects and preventive or curbing measure we need to adapt to:

* Starting from the least common vice, we can regard disrespectfulness, stealing and smoking as vices. Disrespectfulness doesn’t just come as an atomic bomb, but starts from somewhere, it starts from demanding too much to shouting at ones parents for not been able to provide what you want and then anger, egocentrism and narcissistic behavior creeps in. One could start thinking that the world revolves round him/her and doesn’t care about what others think about his/her attitudes and behaviors; he/ she could decide to stab someone for just stepping on his/her toes and feel no remorse for it, he/she feels that whatever he/ she does is right and justified by the action of the “offender”. This results in fighting which could lead to disfiguration and ultimately death of the victim. In real sense it is normal to watch your kids go through the adolescent and puberty stage of life, but leaving them to figure things out on their own could be very dangerous as this normal stage of life may give rise to psychopaths and murderers. All these characteristics could also be as a cause of child trauma or child abuse or an injury to the brain which could lead to lack of empathy. As psychopathy can be “lack of empathy, deceitfulness and complete selfishness” All these traits can also be manifested at a tender age due to several causes which may include egocentrism manifestation, trauma or a damage to the brain. Stealing could also be expressed from a tender age, as the child may want certain things, but if not attended to may result in stealing. This could be driven by peer pressure and peer influences and could escalate into stealing at school, robbing people, banks and organizations. It could also lead to cultism, money ritual and the infamous “yahoo boys” also known as “G-boys” short for Ghana buggers. Smoking as well could be caused by social and peer group influence, the easiest and fastest way to influence a person is at his/her early stage of life where he/she cannot make well decisions or is faced with physical or emotional problems. In Nigeria it is very easy to influence children, especially teenagers to do bad things at their vulnerable age.
* Child abuse along with child trauma could be a major tool in the downfall of many *would have been* successful and responsible citizens. “The consequences of maltreatment can be devastating. For over 30 years, clinicians have described the effects of child abuse and neglect on the physical, psychological, cognitive, and behavioural development of children. Physical consequences range from minor injuries to severe brain damage and even death. Psychological consequences range from chronic low self-esteem to severe dissociative states. The cognitive effects of abuse range from attentional problems and learning disorders to severe organic brain syndromes. Behaviourally, the consequences of abuse range from poor peer relations all the way to extraordinarily violent behaviours. Thus, the consequences of abuse and neglect affect the victims themselves and the society in which they live”. In Nigeria, it is very common to hear and find cases of child molestation, child prostitution, teenage pregnancy and even infanticides, this could make someone who has been caught up in all of these even when not directly involved may be traumatized and could result in him/her going into prostitution, killing innocent people, raping, premeditated murders and many more. At the early stage of life, it is easy to alter one’s own life due to traumatic events that the brain can’t handle. When a girl is subjected to sexual assaults as a child, she may result in indecent dressing which has been seen as a normal thing by most parents, encouraging social vices and also prostitution which has been said to be the only option for some people. All these behaviors at an early age could make children around them think it is good; including students and could spread the normalization and acceptance of such vices. Child abused adults if not properly attended to could become worse than the person who abused them and they often live their lives as bad people who inflict pain on others to satisfy themselves and feel good about themselves and their pain. These kinds of people are often seen in all countries and Nigeria is no exception as the environment in which children grow up in and watch are constantly where such bad people reside and the government does nothing about these types of people. Some of the victims of these social vices when neglected by their parents and the society may become kidnappers, rapists, psychopaths or this could make them not to concentrate in school and they result in becoming dropouts and homeless people. The life and future of an innocent child could change at an instance due to child abuse and child trauma.

# Works Cited

Authentic. (2019, November 5). *Curbing the menance of social vices*. Retrieved from Authentic news giant Web site : https://authenticng.com/curbing-the-menance-of-social-vices/

Scientific American mind. (2012, September 1). *Mind: Can you make a sociopath- either through brain injury or other types of trauma?* Retrieved from Scientific American: https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-you-make-sociopath-through-brain-injury-trauma/

National Research Council. 1993. *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/2117

**HOW TO STOP SOCIAL VICES AMONG THE TEENAGERS IN NIGERIA**

Social vices are very easy to inculcate in the society, but may sometimes be hard to eradicate, here are some of the ways to stop such menace in the society;

* The social vices that occur in Nigeria, such as cultism, rape, murder, indecent dressing and fraudulent practices does not only affect the immediate victims, but also affects the nation at large; it could lead to development of bad image and reputation of the country and decrease in the development of the country economically and otherwise. To stop such social vies from taking over the country, it is necessary to educate everyone on the dangers of such vices, staring from the child to the adult, the consequences of our actions should be made known. Laws should be enforced to anyone found guilty of such vices and there should be no easy bail I.e. According to the degree of crime committed starting from the lowest to the top (no plead for bail) the accused after proven guilty should be given severe punishment by the law, this will serve as an example to others. Those in power who also commit such vices should be severely punished by the law, it would serve as a very good example for any offender of the law.
* Children should be given proper attention especially at the adolescent age where the child is prone to different influences. As the child is kept safe in a good environment, the problems the child may be facing should be taken care of, if need be the child should be taken to the psychologist in case of any trauma or any form of injury to the brain. The kind of friends the child keeps should be noted and watched with close attention, as the child’s friends can be of great influence to the child. Information is a key factor in all of these as the parents should seek information about their child, what they watch and ways to train their children in a God fearing way. The child should not be pampered just as the bible says “spare the rod and spoil the child” because pampering the child would help create a lot of problems leading to these vices in the society. Above all the child’s mental and social health should also be paid close attention to.
* **Conclusion**: The quicker we realise that social vices in Nigeria is spreading like wild fire and we are the cause of such vices, then we will be able to curb and eradicate the social vices among Nigerian teenagers today.