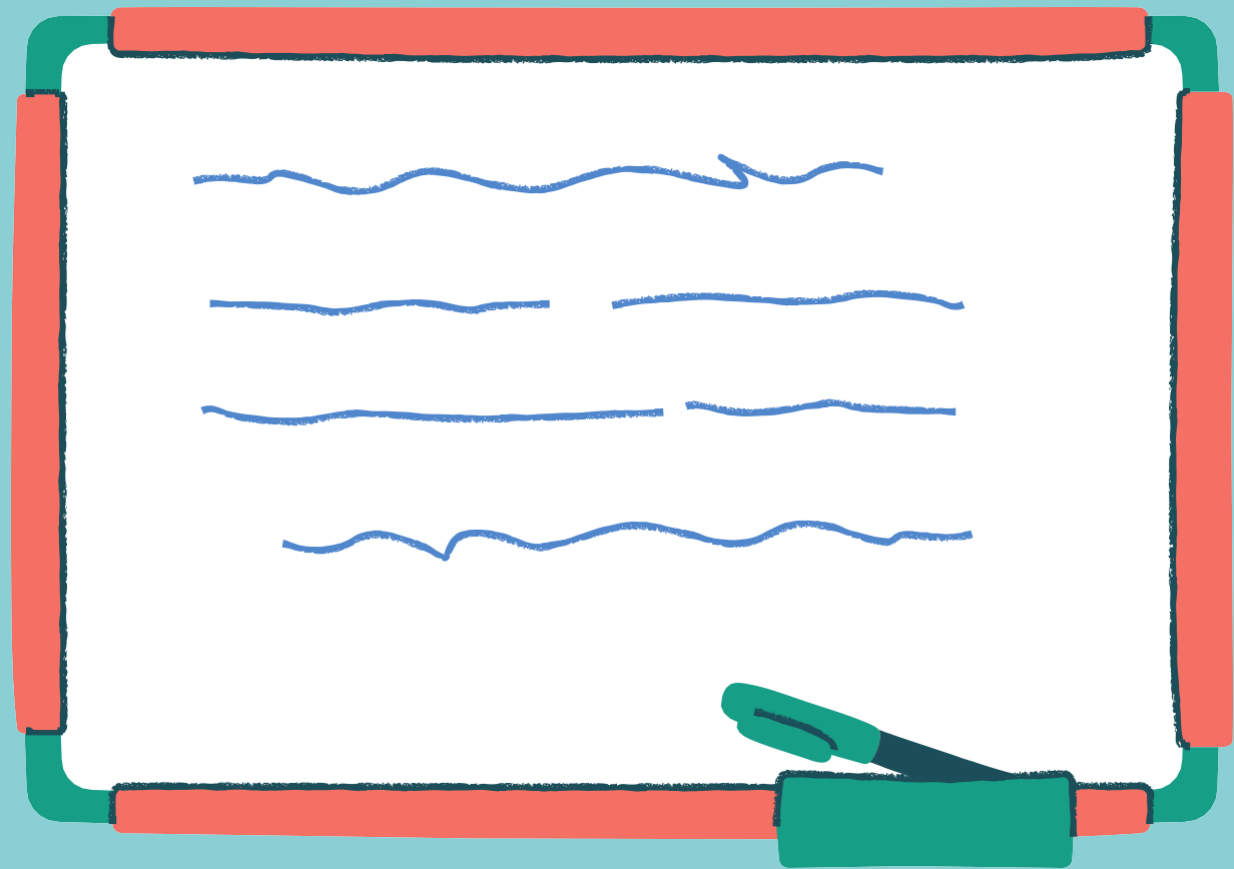




Social factors that contribute to substance abuse

L.O Gr 8 T2 Week 3: Lesson 3

Social factors that contribute to substance abuse:



Overview

1. Families
2. Community
3. Media

Social factors that contribute to substance abuse including community and media

- Appropriate behaviour to stop and avoid substance abuse: refusal and decision-making skills.
- Long and short term consequences of substance abuse: link to crime, violence and educational outcomes.
- Rehabilitation options: where to find help, care and support.
- Appropriate behaviour to stop and avoid substance abuse: refusal and decision-making skills:

What is substance abuse: Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse, is use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. It is a form of substance-related disorder. Differing definitions of drug abuse are used in public health, medical and criminal justice contexts.



1. FAMILIES

- Children that are raised in families with enough money and love have a better chance of not abusing substances.
- They have good role models to follow

A lot of children in dysfunctional families e.g.:

- House not proper, not enough food or care
- Children living with brothers/sisters due to parents being deceased
- Parents coming back late from work less time with kids
- Children unsupervised walk around in the street
- Family members drunk, fighting or child abuse

Factor: Family history of addiction.

Drug addiction is more common in some families and likely involves genetic predisposition. ...

Mental health disorder

Peer pressure

Lack of family involvement

Early use

Taking a highly addictive drug.

Below are some more factors but are pertinent to South African society:

Poverty, unemployment, lack of recreational facilities, being surrounded by substance abusers, long shifts at work, high stress as a result of a combination of unemployment and family problems, boredom and work pressures were also mentioned as factors contributing to substance abuse.

Decision Making skills:

This process will help you to make decisions that affects everyday living:

Identify.....the issue/problem

Decide to take or not to take.... What are the right options for you

Evaluate the situation, what are the consequences of the decision you are about to make

Act: make the choice

Learn from the situation. What were the lessons gained from your decision?



2. COMMUNITIES

- Teenagers spend a lot of time together - influence each other.
- Teenager without a safe family environment will follow the group.
- Can join a gang who abuses substances and who are involved with crime
- Get social support (positive) e.g.
 1. Sport clubs
 2. Youth clubs
 3. Religious youth groups



3. MEDIA



- Most teenagers watch tv Watch soapies
- They identify with people in the stories



- See them as role models Teenagers see a lot of advertisements
- Media can broadcast the wrong message



ROLE OF THE MEDIA: Discussion around the use of drugs being made to seem cool in the media such as movies, Internet, radio, tv, movies and magazines. Often seeing movie stars drinking and drugging in movies or series appears it to be cool. Also magazines may carry articles which shows tv personalities having fun and how they abuse drugs or alcohol may appear to be cool. What is not shown or written about are the effects on the body or thought processes.





Class Activity 3



Read the case study below and answer the questions that follow:

FROM GANG TO SOCCER (Taken from Oxford Life Orientation learner's book)

"When you join the gang, you can never leave. Do you understand? These tattoos, these numbers in ink, they are here forever, man," say Martin, a former gang member.

Martin is now a striker in a street soccer league.

Two years earlier, Martin had been nearby, sucking on a pipe filled with tik, when he was asked to join in a game.

The MylifE Foundation, which uses soccer to get young people away from gangs and drugs, offered Martin another path. Martin soon found that the highs of goal scoring replaced the highs from drugs.

MylifE's Barney Stevens, himself a former cocaine addict who now coaches the team, said: "While they play soccer, they're not out robbing, stealing, causing chaos around the city."

Source: Adapted from Cape Town's gangs: Martin's story, BBC Panorama, 1 March 2010

Questions:

1. Which substance was Martin abusing?

2. Which group encouraged Martin to get involved with substance abuse?

3. Which community group has helped Martin to turn his life around?

4. If our role models drink alcohol, should we do it too? Why?

Thank you for
joining today's class.

