

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 10 (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: RELIGION AND NATIONAL VALUES EDUCATION

CLASS: JSS2

TOPIC: DRUG TRAFFICKING

MEANING OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking is the crime of selling, transporting, or illegally importing unlawful controlled substances, such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, or other illegal drugs. Simply put, it refers to the buying and selling of illegal drugs or to the act of trading or dealing in illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, etc. It can also be seen as the illegal cultivation, manufacturing, possession, distribution, buying or selling of illegal drugs within and outside the borders of a country.

REASONS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

People engage in drug trafficking for various reasons and these include:

- 1. Ignorance:** One reason why some persons engage in drug trafficking is due to ignorance. Some persons caught trafficking drugs do not know what they are carrying while others lack proper knowledge about the dangers and consequences of drug trafficking.
- 2. Poverty:** Some people engage in drug trafficking because they lack the resources to meet their daily needs and those of their families. Such persons turn to drug trafficking which is lucrative even though it is illegal.
- 3. Greed:** Another reason why people engage in drug trafficking is greed. Such persons turn to drug trafficking because it is lucrative and fetches a lot of money, even though it is illegal and considered a crime.
- 4. Unemployment:** Some persons engage in drug trafficking because they are unemployed. As is often said, **“an idle mind is the devil’s workshop”** and such persons turn to the vice of drug trafficking in the absence of a legitimate job.
- 5. Negative peer pressure/influence:** People also engage in drug trafficking due to pressure from their friends/peers.
- 6. Lack of self-discipline**

CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

1. It can lead to the trafficker’s imprisonment once he/she is caught.
2. It attracts a death sentence for the trafficker in some cases.
3. Drug traffickers bring shame to their families.
4. It brings a bad image/reputation to a country.
5. It affects national security as it can lead to an increase in crime rate since most hard drug users engage in vices like armed robbery, rape, cultism etc.
6. Drug traffickers may also pay heavy fines when caught.
7. It also destroys the lives of viable youths who become victims of drug abuse and addiction as a result.

AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING DRUG LAWS IN NIGERIA

The agencies responsible for the enforcement of drug laws in Nigeria and for combating drug abuse and drug trafficking are:

1. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)

2. National Agency For Food And Drug Administration And Control
3. The Customs Service
4. The Nigerian Police
5. Federal And State Ministries Of Health
6. The Law Courts

PREVENTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking could be prevented through the following measures :

1. Proper education and sensitization of the masses
2. Creation of jobs and employment opportunities to keep the citizens gainfully engaged.
3. Poverty alleviation
- 3 Proper legislation to discourage people from drug trafficking.
4. Strengthening of agencies like NDLEA and NAFDAC to effectively deal with drug traffickers.
5. International co-operation to prevent drug trafficking.

HOMEWORK

1. What is drug trafficking?
2. State 3 reasons why people engage in drug trafficking.
3. State three(3) agencies responsible for combating drug trafficking in Nigeria.