

ABSTRACT

Alcohol and drugs abuse (ADA) is on serious increase, especially among the youth in many parts of the World. It has been reported that the most affected persons by the challenge of alcohol and drugs abuse the world over are the youth. In Kenya, the National Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA) report indicates that 84% of youth between 16 to 24 years are involved in alcohol and drug abuse. This report is against a back ground of country believed to be comprising of majority Christians. This then infers that Christians are part of alcohol and drug abusers. African Christian Morality is rooted in the principles of ethical quality and righteousness, guiding believers toward the kingdom of God within the context of African moral framework which draws from both African community values and the teachings, ministry, and the death of Jesus Christ. In the face of increased ADA, the African Christian Morality is likely to be eroded. ADA is known to lowered the integrity of the body and the spirit through destruction Christian morals. The study aimed to examine the prevalence of ADA, identify its causes, and assess its effects on African Christian Morality among the youth in Mutuati Parish, Meru Diocese, Kenya. The study utilized a descriptive survey design. Mutuati parish has a population of 260 youth members. The research utilized simple random sampling design to select 154 youth members and 9 church elders. Purposive sampling was used to select 1 parish priest. Data was collected using questionnaires for the youth, interview guide for the priest and focus group discussions for the church leaders and parish priest from the parish. The validity of these instruments was ascertained by supervisors and other expert from the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Data was analysed using statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 26 and presented using graphs and distribution tables. The findings showed that there was a high prevalence of ADA among the youth. Peer pressure, family conflicts, lack of parental guidance, and the absence of good role models were identified as prominent causes of ADA. The study found that that ADA negatively influences Christian moral values such as diligence, humility, justice, obedience, and respect. The study recommends that lobbying be done to the county government so they can help fight the ADA menace by controlling licensing the number of bar operating in the area. The church and local leader need to collaborate and launch targeted awareness campaigns that highlight the negative consequences of substance abuse. The church should organise parenting programs that encourage parents to be involved in guidance and counselling of their children especially on ADA. The church need to device ways of Strengthening African Christian Morality and integrate them into church youth programs, church preaching and fellowships. The study further recommends that urgent measures, interventions and support systems geared towards prevention, social support and fostering of strong moral foundations be done targeting the youth to help strengthen and preserve African Christian Morality.