

EDUCATION ON ILLICIT DRUGS

The recent global issue (**that is the abuse of tramadol among youth**) compelled **BEST NACEM** to setup a campaign titled **SAY NO TO TRAMADOL ABUSE AND HIV/AIDS campaign**. The campaign started in January 2018.

To support **Food and Drugs Authority (FDA)** and **Ministry of Health (MOH)** in other to reduce the intake of tramadol which is mostly abused by youth, Team **BEST NACEM** introduced a campaign titled **SAY NO TO TRAMADOL ABUSE**.

The **SAY NO TO TRAMADOL ABUSE** initiative began in **January 2018** after team **BEST NACEM FOUNDATION** visited the Nsawam prison during the **JUSTICE FOR ALL PROGRAM**. It was there that team **BEST NACEM FOUNDATION** noticed most youth (**0.23%**) were charged with narcotic offence after abusing tramadol.

Team **BEST NACEM FOUNDATION** on **19TH FEBRUARY-MAY 2018** commenced a survey by visiting both young and old people in ghettos, communities' villages, markets and schools in order to know why youth/students by the majority abuse tramadol.



TRAMADOL 225MG IN A GHETTO (ANOMABO) CENTRAL REGION.



AFTER interviewing these boys, team BEST NACEM noticed that the young man in the white singlet abuses tramadol. He promised to stop if he finds himself a good work. In other for the boy not to influence his peers, team BEST NACEM got him a Job at Bel Aqua.



R/C SCHOOL IN KUMASI(ASAFO) PLEDGING NOT TO ABUSE TRAMADOL.



CEO OF BEST NACEM EDUCATING R/C STUDENTS IN KUMASI TO STAY AWAY FROM TRAMADOL



A WITH PICTURE THE CEO OF BEST NACEM AND R/C STUDENTS (KUMASI)

Most of the youth we interviewed indicated that they abuse tramadol in order to prolong their sexual act while others said it energizes them to work. Some also said that, they started abusing tramadol after their friends introduced it to them as a drug that can assist in studying.

STATISTIC

- PROLONG SEXUAL ACTIVITY = 49%
- FOR ACTIVE WORK = 22%
- FOR STUDIES = 13%
- OUT OF CURIOSITY = 7%
- PEER PRESSURE = 9%

The above statistic indicates that majority of the youth abuse tramadol for sexual purpose. This act can easily result to HIV/AIDS since most youth don't protect themselves during sex.

2.0 MAY –JUNE 2018

Team BEST NACEM took the opportunity to visit two important personalities in Ghana to interview them. Personalities are

- The paramount queen mother for Mankessim and the president to all queen mothers in Ghana
- The UNITED NATION PRESIDENT TO GHANA

THE PARAMOUNT QUEEN MOTHER MANKESSIM

Nana Ama Ammisah who is the queen mother of Mankessim and the president to all queens in Ghana was the first personality team BEST NACEM visited. Nana Ama Ammisah touched on the future of the youth and how challenging it will be when youth continue to abuse tramadol.

Nana Ama Ammisah also made mention of the increased rate of social vices and high dependency in her community as a result of tramadol. She pleaded with Food and Drugs Authority and Ministry of Health to stand on their feet to set a

team to educate the youth since they are the future leaders. She concluded by pledging to be part of the campaign.

NB: This was done in a video form which is yet to be edited.





QUEEN MOTHER AMA AMMISSAH AND TEAM BEST NACEM

THE UNITED NATION PRESIDENT TO GHANA

Mr. Bishop Peter Sackey who is the UNITED NATION president to Ghana touched on the negative effect of tramadol. He made mention of how congested prisons have become as a result of drug abuse and if today youth are now abusing tramadol then Ghana is in trouble. He encouraged Food and Drugs authority and Ministry Health to stand on their feet and set a task force to visit areas that sell drugs without license and if possible ban the drug, since youth by the majority are getting affected negatively. He also concluded by pledging to be part of the campaign.

NB: This was done in a video form which is yet to be edited.



MR. BISHOP PETER SACKY (UNITED NATION PRESIDENT TO GHANA) AND CEO OF BEST NACEM (MR.STEPHEN AFFUL)

BEST NACEM In Collaboration With
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MFANTSEMAN TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
Present

SAY NO TO **TRAMADOL**



DATE: 16th JUNE, 2018

VENUE: ANGLICAN CHURCH - SALTPOND.

TIME: 3:30PM

FOR MORE DETAILS: 0549039913/0504934736

CHAIRMAN: NANA BAAH VII

GUEST SPEAKERS: NANA AMA AMISSAH III

HON. EKOW QUANSAH HAYFORD, HON K.K ESSUMAN

MR. JAMES KORSAH BROWN

Daily Graphic
GHANA'S LEADING
DAILY NEWSPAPER
SINCE 1947



In other to involve the media, traditional councils, MCE'S, MP, Nurses, Doctors, Teachers, Chiefs, Bankers, and most importantly students in the campaign, team BEST NACEM decided to launch the SAY NO TO TRAMADOL CAMPAIGN.

The launch which had little support from Indomie was organized at Saltpond in the central region on Saturday 16th June 2018. The event saw dignitaries like, Hon. Kenneth Kelly Essuman (MCE for Mfantseman), Hon Ekow Kwansah Hayford (MP. for Mfantseman), Nana Baah VII (Chief of Nankesido), Nana Ama Amisah (Paramount Queen Mother), Director for Education (Mfantseman), Director for Mfantseman Municipal Assembly, Doctors and Nurses from Saltpond and Mankessim, Reps from Ministry of Health, students from (Methodist Senior High School (Saltpond), Mfantseman Girls Senior High, Mankessim Senior High School), as well as other popular public speakers.

Opportunity was also given to the gathering to ask questions while the media crew from (UTV, Atinka Tv, Daily graphic, My joy online, Coastal FM, Osagyfo FM and Obrumakuma FM) gave some measure of coverage.

THE MCE MFTANTSEMAN

The MCE was very happy when he heard that the launch was taking place in his Municipality. During the event the MCE touched on many points. He promised to destroy Ghetto's in his municipality since that is where youth get access to the drug (tramadol). He pleaded with Food and Drugs Board and Ministry of Health to set up a committee to visit schools to educate the students or youth. He concluded his speech by officially launching the **SAY NO TO TRAMADOL ABUSE** and pledged to be part of the campaign.



MCE FOR MFANTSEMAN DELIVERING HIS SPEECH DURING THE SAY NO TO TRAMADOL LAUNCH

DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION (MFANTSEMAN)

The director for Education who had on countless cases seen student's abuse tramadol in her Municipality also pleaded with Ministry of Health and Food and Drugs Authority to set a committee to visit schools across Ghana to educate students if possible. Mrs. Martha Acquah also advised students who attended the program to stay away from the drug (tramadol) since it had no positive effect on their life. She concluded by pledging to be part of the campaign.



EDUCATION DIRECTOR FOR MFANTSEMAN DELIVERING HER SPEECH DURING THE LAUNCH

CHIEFS

The program saw two chiefs Nana Baah and Nanan Brebo. The chiefs were very happy to chair the launch. Both Chiefs had a common message. They made mentioned of how youth in their enclave kill and steal after they abusing

tramadol. The chiefs were very happy by the number of media that showed up. They also ended up by pledging to support the campaign.



NANA BAAH DELIVERING HIS SPEECH DURING THE LAUNCH

STUDENTS

Students were selected at random from various schools to attend the program. Some students after the program asked few questions.







Some questions that were asked by students

1. Can you visit our school to educate all of us?
2. How can we get information of tramadol since we are student and don't have access to mobile phones?
3. Who should we report to when we see our friends abusing the drug?

CHALLENGES

TEAM BEST NACEM faced a lot of challenges. Some of the challenges were:

- **Materials to educate the students,**
- **Allowances to pay resource people**
- **Transportation to central and back to Accra**
- **Allowances to settle the media.**

NB: BEST NACEM was able to manage all the above challenges after redrawing 97% of saved money from NACEM account in addition to the 3% support from Indomie.



CEO OF BEST NACEM, EDUCATION DIRECTOR (MFANTSEMAN), STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM SALTPOND SENIOR HIGH(AFTER THE LAUNCH)



CEO OF BEST NACEM, EDUCATION DIRECTOR (MFANTSEMAN), AND STUDENTS FROM KWEGYIR AGGREY SENIOR HIGH (ANOMABO)(AFTER THE LAUNCH)



CEO OF BEST NACEM, CHIEFS, EDUCATION DIRECTOR (MFANTSEMAN), AND STUDENTS FROM MANKESSIM SENIOR/TECHNICAL SCHOOL (AFTER THE LAUNCH)



CEO OF BEST NACEM SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE LAUNCH



CEO OF BEST NACEM DELIVERING SPEECH DURING THE LAUNCH



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CEO OF BEST NACEM ON ATINKA TV A DAY BEFORE THE LAUNCH



CEO OF BEST NACEM AND CHIEFS OF NKUSUKUM (MFANTSEMAN)(AFTER THE LAUNCH)



CEO OF BEST NACEM AND THE MCE FOR MFANTSEMAN AFTER THE LAUNCH

Students sensitised to tramadol abuse

BEST NACEM has, in partnership with the Ghana Education Service (GES), organised a campaign dubbed: "Say No To Tramadol Abuse" for second-cycle students in the Mfantseman Municipality in the Central Region.

The programme was aimed at sensitising the students and the youth in general to the effects of the abuse of

tramadol, a pain relief drug.

At the event, the Mfantseman Municipal Chief Executive, Mr K.K. Essuman, advised the students to desist from drug abuse, since it could destroy their lives.

He said they should only take prescribed drugs to ensure that they took the right medication.

The youth, he said, held the future of Mfantseman and Ghana at large and, therefore, they must concentrate on their books to prepare themselves adequately for the future.

The Chief Executive Officer of BEST NACEM, Mr Stephen Afful, urged the students to spread the 'Say No To Tramadol Abuse' message among their friends in view of the effect of tramadol abuse on their lives.

A mental health nurse, Mr Stephen Ntow, took the students through the negative effects of the use of hard drugs, stressing that those drugs could affect their future.

He urged the organisers of the programme not to limit the campaign to only tramadol abuse but also hard drugs.

The Mfantseman Municipal Director of Education, Mrs Martha Acquah, said hard drugs affected children and retarded



Mr Stephen Afful speaking to the press on the sidelines of the tramadol abuse campaign

EOCO invites vehicle owners

THE Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) is requesting the drivers of the underlisted vehicles to report to its acting Executive Director, ACP Mr K.K. Amoah (retd), with their vehicles today, June 20, 2018.

A statement signed and issued by the acting Executive Director of EOCO listed the vehicles as Toyota Land Cruisers with the registration numbers GR 2220-18, GR 2221-18 and GR 2222-18, as well as Toyota Camry vehicles with the registration numbers GT 2243-17 and GT 4054-13.

It said all the drivers of the above vehicles should report with the vehicles, explaining that they were requested to report in connection with "a case about tax evasion under investigation".

Quick Read

Students in the Mfantseman Municipality in the Central Region have been educated on the effects of the abuse of tramadol.



SAY NO !!!
TO
RAMADAN