CULTIST ACTIVITIES AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: COUNSELLING INTERVENTIONS IN KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

Suleiman, Femi Hafiz

(Ph. D), Email: <u>hafiz.sf@ksu.edu.ng</u> Audu Lawal (Ph.D)

Ali Yakubu Alhaji

Oladele Taiwo Omolara (Ph.D.)

Usman Haruna

Ochijenu Mercy Asibi (Ph.D.)

Amaha Christiana

Aliyu Rakiya Oiza

Muhammed Sanni Haruna

Ojonugwa Dominic Solomon

(Ph.D.), Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba, Kogi State, Nigeria;

Abstract

The study investigated cultist activities among undergraduate students and counselling interventions in kogi state, Nigeria Descriptive research design was used for this study The study covered all degree awarding institutions in Kogi state: The population of this study was made up of 30 lecturers, 30 professional counsellors and 260 undergraduate students through Bi-sampling techniques: Proportional sampling techniques and stratified random sampling techniques. Selfconstructed questionnaire containing 42 items was designed by the researchers to elicit information from the respondents. The instrument was validated by four experts in the field of Educational Psychology, Measurement and Evaluation while the reliability of the instrument was established using test-retest method. The data ware analysed using mean scores to determine the levels of agreement and disagreement of 2.50+ and 2.50- respectively. The study revealed among others that, quest for protection, peer group influence, broken homes are causes of cultism. Having unique dressing style, slogan, bringing in new members, appointment of mentors, inscriptions of different designs on the bodies of the members, indulge in secret meetings are identified as characteristics of cultism and cultist activities negatively affect the academic performance. The study recommends among others that, ABC counselling techniques of Albert Ellis, Anomie theory, employment of qualified counsellors, Periodical counselling of students and

parents, Orientation and periodical reorientation of students should be embarked on in the Universities

Keywords: Activities, ounselling, Cultist, Interventions, Undergraduate,

Introduction

Counselling is refers to directive, or prescriptive form of assistance giving to anyone who needs help. It is more democratic in nature because it refers to advice or information provided by a person of experience (counsellor) to solve problems or improve something which in a process of helping individuals to discover and develop their potentials. The need for this service, in the context of cultism, by the adolescents particularly the undergraduate students is something that cannot be ignored in the tertiary educational system. Hence, Agrawal (2006) stressed that, counselling helps 'to direct', 'to point out' and 'to show the path', which is the assistance or help rendered by a more experienced person to a less experience person to solve certain major problems of the individual 'less experienced' while Denga (2019) stressed that counselling would help an individual to achieve an optional level of happiness and peace of mind, leading to meaningful life fulfillment thereby, able to contribute significantly to the society at large and Awoyemi (2019). referred to Guidance and counselling as a helping profession, it is a molding, a reconstruction and a rehabilitating process, it is a self-revealing relationship and it is bath preventive and curative for maladaptive and self- destructive tendencies .

Education is seen as a means through which young and old members of the society are taught about the expected behaviour of the society and the rules, policies, values, skills, attitudes and knowledge that equip the individual to achieve personal and societal required goals. According to Michael and Edward (2019), education is what goes on from one generation to another generation; it is the process of socializing the child to grow up as a fulfilled member of the society. It involves the process of acquiring the relevant knowledge, attitude, values and skills must be made as concrete as possible for easy learning. Education helps the society shape and mold individuals to fit well in the environment. While Abdulhaeez (2018) stressed that, tertiary education institutions which include Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education have been known to provide the social atmosphere which allow students, administrators and academics alike to enjoy peaceful co-existence and excellence in education. In the case of students, the existence of and participation in clubs and organizations on campuses ensure that they become well rounded and well-adjusted individuals at the completion of their course of study. This scenario applied to institutions of higher learning in Nigeria until two decades ago when cultism reared its ugly head on campuses thereby obstructing the learning activities in schools.

Cultism in tertiary institutions in Nigeria started in late 1949. According to Ajayi, Haastrup and Osalusi (2017), Cultism attack in universities of Nigeria started in the first premiere university, university of Ibadan in 1952 by the popular Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka and six other people who formed the pirates' confraternity. The other six include Olumuyiwa Awe, Ralph Opara, and Tunji Tubi, Aig Imokhuede, Pius Olegbe and Oluagunloye. Their purpose of forming cult groups are scraping convention, fighting tribalism, reviving the social life of students in campus and elitism. Danbra (2016) in his work complained that, the supposed good plan by Wole Soyinka and his friends turned out to be evil hunting the society till date. One of the greatest social crimes committed in the institutions of higher learning in the country as of today is that of cultism. It is very rampant in universities, colleges of education and polytechnics all over the

country. It is a social menace which is not restricted to only the institutions of higher learning but that which is a common phenomenon that characterizes the entire society.

Abdulhazeez (2018), stressed that, cultism is an activities or practice of a group of people with one common spiritual or philosophical belief. The group of indiv

iduals that are involved in such activities or practices is known as cult. He maintained that cultism is a major vice which is common in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, that cultism started with a good course but things changed over time.

Aniekpeno (2017) defined cultism as the practice of activities that are associated with cult, secret society are organization whose membership and mode of operation are considered to the unconventional and known to be members only. They pledge their loyalty to members with utmost allegiance to the cult devoting themselves under oath to support and carry out the activities of the group without objection. According to Udoh and Ikezu, (2015), cult can be defined as a group of individual whose way of meeting and agenda are secretive and where initiations into the group are done in the secret

Statement of the Problem

There are pressures, confusions and restless, oppressors imposed on tertiary institutions in Nigeria by this antisocial act of cultism. These acts resulted to some extent, where campuses were unstable and administrative efforts dangling creating security treat to both the students' ant the constituted authorities which jeopardized ameliorable academic outfit. In tertiary institutions which supposed to be citadel of learning has been turned to a battle ground. Cases of clashes between cult groups disrupt the learning activities in schools; it can put lectures on hold, stop students from going to school. Students who lodge in the school hostels are scared of going to the class at night, private night study in our campuses are forgotten as a result of cult activities. Due to clashes by cult groups, innocent lives are lost, property destroyed and peace and orderliness in the school disrupted. In addition to these, cases of sexual harassment of mostly the female students are on the increase. However, students are equally made not to dress to their taste because they are scared of wearing some certain coloure that are termed to be specific dressing code of cult groups. By implication, students are made to study and learn in perpetual fear.

They perpetrate all manners of evils, such as, examination malpractice, rape, robbery, arson, maiming, intimidation of fellow students and lecturers for good grades, love (girlfriend), clashes of rival cult group among others, just in the name of belonging to the oppressed group 'cultism' Plethora of research have been able to investigate some of the causes of cultism and effects but bothered not to investigate the counselling interventions that could be employed on this notorious act of cultists. This study therefore, investigated the cause's impact and counselling interventions on cultism

Objectives of the study

The study specifically examined:

- 1. Perceived causes of cultism among undergraduate Students in Kogi State
- 2. Characteristics of Cultism among Undergraduate Students
- 3. Impacts of cultism on academic environment in Kogi State
- 4. Possible Counselling interventions against Cultism among Undergraduate students

Research Questions

The study is guided by the following research questions

1. What are the perceived causes of cultism among undergraduate students in Kogi State?

- 2. What are the characteristics of cultism among undergraduate students?
- 3. What are the impacts of cultism on academic environment in Kogi State?
- 4. What are the possible counselling interventions against cultism among undergraduate students?

Methods

Descriptive research design was used for this study because investigations were carried out in their natural setting without research manipulations of either the dependent and independent variables. This design was preferred because the study arrived at sampling the students, lecturers and professional counsellors' perceptions of the causes, effects, characteristics and counselling interventions of cultism among undergraduate students

The study covered all degree awarding institutions in Kogi state: Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba (PAAU), Federal University, Lokoja, (FUL), Confluence State University of Science and Technology, Osara, (COUSTECH), Federal College of Education, (FCE) University of Ibadan Affiliated.

The population of this study was made up of 30 lectures, 30 professional counsellors and 260 undergraduate students while Bi-sampling techniques were used for the study. Proportional sampling techniques was used to determine the population of the participants while stratified random sampling techniques was used for the respondents. Therefore, 260 undergraduate students of 100, 80, 50, and 30 ware randomly sampled from KSU, FUL, CUO and FCE respectively

Self-constructed questionnaire was design by the researchers to elicit information from the respondents. The instrument was structured on 42 items were divided into 4 sections of 'A 'Perceived causes of cultism among undergraduate students,; 'B' Effects of cultism on University environment; 'C' Characteristics of cultism and 'D' Possible counselling inventions on cultism. The questionnaire was structured on modified 4 Likert scale of Strongly Agree; Agree; Disagree and Strongly Disagree

In order to ensure both content and face validity of the instrument, it was given to four experts in the field of Educational Psychology and Measurement and Evaluation. The test items were scrutinized where adequate corrections and suggestions were made. The 42 items were thereby subjected to pilot testing to find out the suitability of the items. A co-efficient 0.78 was obtained. This showed that the content analysis of the instrument was suitable for the study and the reliability of the instrument was established using test retest method. The researchers administered the instrument on 20 students, 5 lecturers and 3 professional counsellors who were not involved in the study. Two weeks later, the same instrument was administered on the same subjects. The two separate tests were correlated and correlation co-efficient of 0.75 was obtained which indicated that the instrument was suitable to be used

The questionnaires were personally distributed to the lecturers, the professional counsellors and the students by the researchers. This method of Direct Delivery Techniques (DDT) was to ensure high rate of returns among the samples while descriptive statistical method was adopted by the researchers to analyse the collected data with the use of mean and ranking order. The criteria mean value was arrived as: Strongly Agree 'SA' = 4 Points, Agree 'A' = 3 Points, Disagree 'D' = 2 Points and Strongly Disagree 'SD' = 1 Point

Therefore, any item calculated mean score of 2.50 above were accepted as true statement while items less than 2.50 were rejected statements and the collected data were analysed according to

the formulated research questions

Result

Research Question 1

What are the perceived causes of cultism among undergraduate students in Kogi State? Table1: Perceived Causes of Cultism among Undergraduate Students in Kogi State

I able	e1: Perceived Causes of Cul ITEMS	SA	A A	D	SD	Mean	Ranking	Remarks
1	Over whelming peer group	126	A 138	36	6	3.25	2 nd	
1	influence students in to		45.1	30 11.76	0 1.9	5.25	2	Accepted
	cultism	71.1	4J.1	11.70	1.9			
2	Broken homes and lack of	132	120	36	18	3.20	3 rd	Accepted
-		43.14			5.88	5.20	5	riccepted
	students in to cultism	10111	59.22	11.,0	2.00			
3	Parents indulge in cultism	84	108	93	21	2.83	$7^{\rm th}$	Accepted
	encourage the children		35.30	30.39	6.86			1
	joining cultism							
4	Search for social identity	108	120	48	30	2.88	5^{th}	Accepted
	makes students joining	35.30	39.22	15.69	9.80			-
	cultism							
5	Societal value	84	84	102	36	2.71	8^{th}	Accepted
	degeneration enhance	27.45	27.45	33.33	11.76			
	students joining cultism							
6	The quest to quest for	150	96	54	6	3.27	1 st	Accepted
	'protection' intimidation	49.02	31.37	17.65	1.96			
	or evil power make student							
	to join cultism						d	
7	Students indulge in	108	90	78	30	2.90	4 th	Accepted
	cultism because those who	35.29	29.41	25.50	9.80			
	are previously caught are							
	not disciplined nor							
0	persecuted	40	70	120	(0)	2.27	10 th	NI-4
8	Inadequate funding of		78 25.40	120	60 19.61	2.37	10	Not
	University to adequately care for students' welfare	13.09	25.49	39.22	19.01			accepted
	encourages cultism among							
	students							
9	Harsh economic situation	66	68	102	70	2.42	9 th	Not
,	in the country encourage	21.57	22.22	33.33	22.87	2.72)	accepted
	students joining cultism	21.37	,	55.55	22.07			decepted
10	The desire to belong to a	84	126	66	30	2.86	6^{th}	Accepted
-	group and not to look odd	27.45	41.18	21.57	9.80		-	r ··· ··
	make students joining	-	-					
	cultism							

Table 1 reveals that item 6 with 3.27 mean score rank the highest in the perceived causes of cultism among the undergraduate students while item 1 with 3.25 calculated mean rank second and items 2, 3, 4, 5,7 and 10 were equally accepted. Items 8 and 9 with mean score of 2.37 and 2.42 respectively were not accepted; hence their mean scores less than criteria score of 2.50. However, the total calculated mean score of 2.88 is greater than criteria score of 2.50, therefore, the identified perceived causes of cultism among the undergraduate students were uphold Research Question 2

What are the characteristics of cultism among undergraduate students? Table 2: Characteristics of Cultism among Undergraduate Students

S/N	ITEMS	SA	А	D	SD	Mean	Ranking	Remarks
1	The group is preoccupied	180	96	30	-	3.69	2^{nd}	Accepted
	with bringing in new members	58.82	31.37	9.80				
2	There are inscriptions of	126	168	12	-	3.37	4^{th}	Accepted
	different designs on the	41.18	54.90	3.92				
	bodies of the members							
3	Each cult group has her	246	54	6	-	3.78	1 st	Accepted
	own unique dressing style	80.39	17.65	1.96				
	or pattern and slogan							
4	Personal mentors are	156	126	24	-	3.43	3 rd	Accepted
	often appointed by the	50.98	41.18	7.84				_
	group							
5	The group are	120	132	30	24	3.13	6 th	Accepted
	excessively zealous and	39.22	43.14	9.80	7.84			
	unquestioning							
	commitment to the leader							
6	The leader dictates how	144	108	24	30	3.20	5^{th}	Accepted
	member should act, think	47.06	35.29	7.84	9.80			
	and feel							
7	Members indulge in	114	26	36	30	3.05	8 th	Accepted
	secret meetings at	37.25	41.18	11.77	9.80			
	eleventh hours or odd -							
	hours							
8	The leadership induces	120	114	48	24	3.07	$7^{\rm th}$	Accepted
	guilt feelings in members	39.22	37.25	15.69	7.84			
	in order to control them							
9	Members are required to	66	156	48	36	2.82	9^{th}	Accepted
	live or socialize only with	21.57	50.98	15.68	11.77			
	the group members							
10	Descent dressing and	96	72	90	48	2.71	10^{th}	Accepted
	orderliness are	31.37	23.53	29.41	15.69			

discouraged	or	even		
punished				
Total mean			3.23	Accepted

Table 2 reveals that item 3 with calculated mean score of 3.78 ranks first among the characteristics of cultism among the undergraduate students while item 1 with calculated mean score of 3.69 ranks second. Other items 4, 2, 6,5,8,7 and 9 in ascending order in calculated mean scores of 3.43, 3.37, 3.20, 3.13, 3.07, 3.05 and 2.82 were equally above the criteria mean. The least item, item 10, with calculated mean score of 2.71 is above the criteria mean score. However the total calculated mean score of 3.23 is greater than the criteria mean score of 2.50, therefore, all the identified characteristics of cultism among undergraduate students were uphold Research Question 3

Table	Tables: Impacts of Cultism on Academic Environment in Kogi State									
S/N	Items	SA	А	D	SD	Mean	Ranking	Remarks		
1	The outburst of violence	240	54	6	6	3.75	1 st	Accepted		
	leading to loss of lives and	78.43	17.65	1.96	1.96					
	property									
2	It leads to decline in	156	120	24	6	3.39	7^{th}	Accepted		
	Universities academic	50.48	39.22	7.84	1.96					
	atmosphere									
3	It leads to break down of	150	132	18	6	3.45	3 rd	Accepted		
	law and order in	49.02	43.14	5.88	1.96					
	Universities									
4	It increases the rate of	168	114	18	6	3.45	3 rd	Accepted		
	drugs addiction and other	54.91	37.25	5.88	1.96					
	substance use among									
	students									
5	The blood sucking during	186	78	24	18	3.41	6 th	Accepted		
	the oath taking could lead	60.78	25.49	7.84	5.88					
	to the spread of AIDS									
6	The crime rate increases as	156	108	30	12	3.33	9^{th}	Accepted		
	a result of cultism	50.98	35.30	9.80	3.92					
7	It leads to enthronement of	126	126	42	12	3.20	10 th	Accepted		
	mediocrity as a result of	41.18	41.18	13.72	3.92					
	examination malpractice									
8	It leads to increase in	180	96	18	12	3.45	3 rd	Accepted		
	nefarious activities like	58.82	31.37	5.88	3.92					
	armed robbery, prostitution									
	etc									
9	They waste much of their	174	108	18	6	3.47	2^{nd}	Accepted		
	precious time on	56.86	35.29	5.88	1.96					
	unproductive activities									

What are the impacts on cultism on academic environment in Kogi State? **Table3: Impacts of Cultism on Academic Environment in Kogi State**

10	Cultist activities	lead to	150	132	18	6	3.39	7 th	Accepted
	emotional and	anxiety	49.02	43.14	5.88	1.96			
	disorders in the ca	mpus							
	TOTAL						3.43		Accepted

Table 3 reveals that item 1with 3.75mean score ranks highest among the impacts of cultism on academic environment which was strictly followed by item 9 with calculated means score of 3.47 while items 3, 4, and 8 with 3.45 calculated mean scores each rank third. Item 5 with calculated mean score of 3.41 rank 6th while items 2 and 10 with 3.39 calculated mean score each rank 7th and item 6 with 3.31 calculated mean score rank 9th while the least in ranking order but still accepted is item 7 with 3.20 calculated mean scores. However, the total calculated mean scores of 3.43 in all identified impacts of cultism on academic environment is higher than the criteria mean score of 2.50, therefore, cultist activities have negative impacts on the Universities academic environments.

Research Question 4

What are the possible counselling interventions against cultism among undergraduate students? Table 4: Possible Counselling Interventions against Cultism among Undergraduate Students

S/N	ITEMS	SA	А	D	SD	Mean	Ranking	Remarks
1	Anomie theory which	15	9	3	3	3.3	6 th	Accepted
	provides an ideal framework	50.0	30.0	10.0	10.0			
	for understanding behaviour							
	could be used to counsel the							
	students						1	
2	The parents are to be	15	12	3	-	3.4	2^{nd}	Accepted
	counseled on how to monitor	50.0	40.0	10.0				
	the activities of their children							
	and the friends they keep both at home and school							
3	There is need for government	15	12	3		3.4	2 nd	Accepted
5	to increase the budget		40.0	3 10.0	-	5.4	2	Accepted
	allocation for education in	50.0	40.0	10.0				
	order to reduce the high cost							
	on masses							
4	Behavioural modification	9	15	6	-	3.1	8 th	Accepted
	theory through assertive	30.0	50.0	20.0				
	training could be employed							
5	Periodical counselling	15	9	3	3	3.2	7 th	Accepted
	programmes could be	50.0	30.0	10.0	10.0			
	organised on radio and							
	television programs							

6	Seminars/ workshop centered	15	6	6	3	3.1	8 th	Accepted
	on cultism should be	50.0	20.0	20.0	10.0			
	organised							
7	Consistent orientations /	12	12	3	3	3.1	8 th	Accepted
	periodical reorientation	40.00	40.0	10.0	10.0			
	programs should be organised							
8	Qualified counsellors to	21	3	3	3	3.4	2^{nd}	Accepted
	assist in areas value	70.0	10.0	10.0	10.0			
	degeneration among the							
	students							
9	Counselling units/ clinics to	15	6	6	3	3.1	8 th	Accepted
	handle various deviant	50.0	20.0	20.0	10.0			
	behaviour among the students							
10	Anti-cultist campaign should	12	12	3	3	3.1	8 th	Accepted
	be carried out through youth	40.0	40.0	10.0	10.0			
	forum							
11	ABC counselling techniques	18	12	-	-	3.6	1^{st}	Accepted
	of Albert Ellis could be	60.0	40.0					
	adopted while counselling							
	cultists							
12	The school counsellors,	18	9	3	-	3.4	2^{nd}	Accepted
	school authority and vigilante	60.0	30.0	10.0				
	should be involved							
13	Government and Non-	12	12	3	3	3.1	8 th	Accepted
	Governmental Organisation	40.0	40.0	10.0	10.0			
	should be highly involved							
	Total mean					3.3		Accepted

Table 4 reveals that all identified possible counselling interventions against cultism among the undergraduate students proved to be effective, hence, all items have mean scores above criteria mean of 2.50. However, item 11 (ABC counselling techniques of Albert Ellis could be adopted while counselling cultists so as to change their irrational belief (ib) to rational belief (rb)) ranks the highest mean of 3.6 which was strictly followed by items 2, 3, 8 and 12 with 3.4 calculated mean score each. While items 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 13 are have the lest calculated mean scores of 3.1each.However, the calculated mean score of 3.3 is greater than the criteria mean score of 2.50, therefore, the identified possible counselling intervention against cultism among undergraduate students were accepted to be used

Discussion

The study reveals that, causes of cultists among the students is attributed to myopic notion about them which vested on quest for protections, intimidation and evil power which in the true sense not a realistic. This is in line with Michael and Edward (2019) and as well as Ajoku (2020) through their findings on counseling against cultist for national development. However, Casin (2019) was not in support of the findings because, through motivation and personally development, the students could be able to have a positive change in behaviour as well as in

thought. Over whelming peer group influence, broken homes and societal value degeneration are found in this study as variables for students joining cultist activities in the school, this, is in line with Ndu (2020) and Wole (2019). The study equally finds that, parents indulge in cultist activities equally encourage the children to join while at school, search for social identity, because those previously caught go apprehended and desire to belong to a group so as not to look odd in the mist of other students. This study does not support harsh economic situation and inadequate funding of University as a factor for students to join cultist activities, this, negate Ven (2018) and Paddy (2019) findings which attested that these variables could encourage students joining cultism

The study holds up that, there are some characteristics that are associated with cultism, among which are: having a unique dressing style, pattern or slogan which are not common to other students. They are equally preoccupied with bringing in new members to their camp and as well as having personal mentors appointed to make new members lose confidence in his/her own perception thereby, strictly abide by that of the cultist. These findings is in consonant with Ndu (2018), Otakpo, John and Wike (2020) and as well as Chinnah (2019) who found that cultism among the students are characterized by certain odds that make them different from other 'normal' students. The study equally found that, cultists are characterized by inscriptions of different designs on the members' body and the leaders used to dictate how members should act, think and feel, and, the group displays an excessive zealous and unquestioning commitment to the leaders. This is in line with Abdullaeez (2018), Bady (2018), Ajayi, Haastrup and Osalusi (2017). The study revealed that , decent dressing and orderliness among the members are discouraged or even punished, also, the members are encouraged or required to live or socialize only with the group members., they equally indulged in secret meetings at odd- hour , this in line with (Yusuf, (2019), Ajoju, (2020), Michael and Edward, (2019).

The study further revealed some negative impacts of cultism on students' academic performance, such as, loss of lives and property, students wasting much of their precious time on unproductive activities and , as well as breaking down of laws and order; increase in the use of drugs and other substance among the students. This is in line with Wole (2019), Yusuf (2019), Ndu (2018) and Aniekpeno (2017), who on their separate findings agreed that cultist activities in the campus negatively impact the students' academic performance. Also, the finding revealed that, cultist activities in the campus lead to oath taking by sucking of members' blood, increase the crime rate, leads to examination malpractices and, increase in other nefarious activities in the campus which all culminate in emotional and anxiety disorder in the campus.

The finding indicated some Counselling strategies that could be undertaking to arrest cultist activities in the campus, among such include, ABC of Albert Ellis, parental Counselling, and increase in budgetary allocations to the institutions, organization of vigilante and anti- cultist groups in the campus. This is in line with Ndu (2020), Danbra (2016), Abdullaeez (2018), Michael and Edward (2019), who all agreed that, through adequate Counselling for the youth, their involvement in cultist activities in the school will be reduced. The study also revealed that trained counsellors, periodical Counselling, anti-cultist campaign, orientation, seminars and workshops, all put in place will reduce cultist activities in the University campuses in Nigeria. This finding collaborate with (Casin(2019), Ven, (2018), Danbra, (2016), Otakpo, John and Wike, 2020)

Findings

The study finds that:

1: Quest for 'protection' intimidation , over whelming peer group influence, broken homes, lack of parental guide, those who are previously caught are not disciplined nor persecuted are identified as perceived causes of cultism among the undergraduate students were uphold 2: Having unique dressing style or pattern and slogan, preoccupied with bringing in new members, appointment of mentors by the group, inscriptions of different designs on the bodies of the members, indulge in secret meetings at eleventh hours or odd – hours are identified characteristics of cultism among undergraduate students

3: Cultist activities have negative impacts on the Universities academic environments such as; violence, loose of lives and property, members waste much of their precious time on unproductive activities, increase in nefarious activities, increases the rate of drugs addiction and other substance and lead to emotional and anxiety disorders in the campus

4: ABC counselling techniques of Albert Ellis, Anomie theory, employment of qualified counsellors, Periodical counselling of students and parents, introduction of Counselling units/ clinics to handle various deviant behaviour among the students and Anti-cultist campaign should be carried out through youth forum are found to be effective strategies to reduce the upsurge of cultist activities in the Universities

Conclusion

It is crystal clear, from the findings that, cultist activities are common phenomenon among undergraduate students in the state. The mode of operando differs from one institution to another. However, there are some peculiarities among them, such as, oath taking, use of drugs and dangerous weapon to intimidate others. Their outbreak in the institutions often result into breaking down of law and others, emotional and anxiety disorder, violence, loss of lives and property which at times result into closure of some institutions for months. Also many factors equally lure some students in to such act. Because, those previously caught are not apprehended and punished, broken homes and lackadaisical commitment of the parents and general degeneration in societal values and orientation. However, through proper Counselling programs, their activities could be controlled in the campuses

Recommendations

The followings ware therefore recommended

- 1. University security architecture should be modified to inject the professional counsellors
- 2. Orientation and periodical reorientation of the students should not be sacrosanct
- 3. Faculty based Counselling center should be introduced to compliment the University based Counselling unites
- 4. The institutions Counselling center should be expanded in to Counselling clinic or the benefits of both students, academic and non-academic staff and, as well as the entire University community

References

- Abdulhaeez, T.O. (2018) Cultism, Why, Effect And How To Curb The Menace in Out Tertiary Institution. https://www.legit.ng. Retrieved 23/2/2020.
- Ajayi, 1.A., T.E. Haastrup and F.M. Osalusi, (2017). Menace of cultism in Nigerian tertiary institutions: The way out. The Anthropoecologist, 12(3): 155-160.
- Ajoku, D. (2020). *Contemporary Psychology and Effective Behaviour Glenview Scott*: Poresman and Co.
- Aniekpeno, M. (2017) *Cultism in Nigeria Schools: Courses, Consequences and Prevention.* www.opinionnigeria.com. Retrieved on 3rd January 2019.
- Awoyemi, E. (2019). Vocational Counselling. *Counselling and human development*. Reading in honour of Professor Ibrahim Adamu Kolo. Ambik Press. Benin City.63 74
- Badey, D. (2018). Condition of Nigerian. Jos helper Educational Publishers.
- Casin, C. (2019). *Motivation and Personality*. New York. Hens and Pad.
- Chinnah, C.P. (2019). Cultism and Sustainable National Development in Nigeria. Economics and Social Sciences Academic Journal Vol.1, No.2; 2019.
- Danbra, I. (2016). Principles of Personality examining. *Journal of clinical psychology*. 5 (3) 117 128.
- Denga, D. I (2019). Introduction to Guidance and Counselling. *Counselling and human development*. Reading in honour of Professor Ibrahim Adamu Kolo. Ambik Press. Benin City 1 16
- Michael, O. U. & Edward, E. I. (2019) Counselling youths against cultism for national development. *International Journal of Innovative Social & Science Education Research 6(2)* 114-124
- Ndu, S. (2018). Advanced Educational Psychology. New York Delhi: vikas Publishing House.
- Ndu, S. (2020). Fundamentals of counselling. Kents: Hangu Mifin Co.
- Otakpo, C., John, N. I. & Wike, C. O. (2020)). Counseling students against cultism and its preventive measure in the institutions. *International Journal of Innovative Social & Science Education Research* 8(4) 94-97.
- Paddy, K. (2019). Guidance and Counselling: A functional approach, Logos: John-Kan Pub.
- Udoh, V. C & Ikezu, U. J. (2015). Causes, effects and strategies for eradicating cultism among students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. A case study of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra state, Nigeria. The Institution. *International Journal of Innovative 6 (12) 22 27*
- Ven, N. (2018). *A Handbook of Educational Foundation Jos*: Printed by Challenge Press, Pp. 177 178.
- Wole, K. (2019). Secret cults in Nigerian Universities. Ibadan: Pan Publishers.
- Yusuf, A. (2019). Impact of Cultism in Kogi State University, Anyigba. Unpublished BSc Ed Research. Kogi State University.