

**ASSESSMENT OF THE INFLUENCE OF AUCHI POLYTECHNIC
CRUSADE ON INDECENT DRESSING BY STAFF AND STUDENT**

BY

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FEBRUARY, 2022

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this project titled **“Assessment of the Influence of Auchu Polytechnic Crusade on Indecent Dressing by Staff and Student”** was written by group 24 and it is the record of our own research. To the best of our knowledge, it has not been presented in any previous application for an academic award.

All sources of information are specifically acknowledged using references.

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APPROVAL

This project is approved based on the student's declaration and its compliance with the requirements of the department of Mass Communication Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi. In partial fulfilment of the Award of National Diploma (ND) In Mass Communication.

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DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty for given us the strength to carry out the research successfully without any barrier during the pursuance of our National Diploma (ND).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We greatly wish to express our profound gratitude to God Almighty for His inspiration, knowledge and guidance.

We also wish to thank our supervisor **Mr. Kadiri Jeremiah** for his parental role and also we say a very big thank you to the HOD, Mass Communication Department, **Mr. Afam Anikwe**.

We also express our gratitude to our parents for the financial support and other well wishers that played a very important role during the course of this project work.

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ABSTRACT

Indecent dressing paved its way into our institutions, places of worship and other centers, from the failure of the older generation to pass on the culture and traditions to the younger generation in Africa and to the gods of identity development. This assessment is to examine how Auchu Polytechnic crusade on indecent dressing has influenced staff and students. The study adopts the exploratory research method design. The negative consequences of dressing indecently were identified to include, rape, prostitution, HIV/AIDS and other venereal disease infection as well as armed robbery, lying and poor school grades. Recommendations put forward included that parents be good moral exemplars to their children, give them attention and regulate the films they watch at home, the mass media must promote good moral values, religious leaders must preach against indecent dressing, counsel those under demonic influence, government reinforcing dress code as well as the introduction of college or university.

Keywords: Indecent Dressing, Influence

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Indecent dressing is to a style of dressing that exposes areas of the body that should be covered with clothes in the view of society. Such modes of dress are usually rejected by society because they are deemed inconsistent with cultural norms and ethics. This can also be seen as dressings that do not conform to socio-cultural norms.

It is no longer news that indecent dressing has taken over the dress pattern of students in higher institutions of learning in Nigeria and Auchi Polytechnic in particular. This menace is spreading fast like the Covid-19 virus with no end in sight. The trend of indecent dressing is fast spreading into even the private and public secondary schools, and this is threatening the values of the Nigerian society as youths are the major drivers of development in all ramifications (Sadeeq as cited in Akpan, 2018). From observation made, hardly a day passes by without some complaints by students, visitors, lecturers, non-teaching staff, or some other persons about the provocative dressing of students in Auchi Polytechnic. Most culpable of this act are the girls; they wear skimpy skirts, only about one inch longer than their pants to lectures and other social gatherings in and outside the campus.

Apart from the skimpy and tight-fitting nature of these dresses, their transparent nature also helps in exposing vital parts of the body for public view. This however creates some difficulty in sitting comfortably, climbing bike, bikes (motorcycle) crossing drains, and even bending down to pick up something. As if this is not enough, the girls again wear very tight trousers called 'skinniers', thereby showing the contours of their body ostensibly to entice the opposite sex. Also, boys are guilty of indecent dressing as well. (Selase and Mawuli, 2013).

However, their dress pattern is different from that of the girls. Their dressing makes them look dirty and very unattractive with unkempt hairs and dirty jeans having pockets of holes deliberately created around the knees and lower parts of the trousers (Ewulo, 2016). The waist of their trousers is often lowered in the middle of their two bottom lobes, revealing their pant which is called —low waist or —ass down. This type of dressing makes them walk by dragging their feet on the floor and this is very embarrassing for any gentleman.

If nothing is done about this, one could not tell of the future of our teeming youthful population studying in institutions of higher learning in Nigeria and Auchu Polytechnic in particular.

Dressing is an act of putting on clothes. Importance of wearing a clothe on the body is in order to protect, beautify or adorn it. Clothes are one of the

basic necessities of man. In its widest sense, it includes a great range of material that man wears or applies to the body. Clothing includes dresses, shoes, jewellery, hairdo and makeup. Clothing is also used to show people's status and the roles they play in society. Some people decide to wear cloths to influence and impress people. Dressing can also tell about the family a person comes from. It can also affect the person's comfort and self-confidence. The dressing pattern of an individual is a form of "sign language" that communicates a complete set of information and is usually the basis on which immediate impressions are formed.

A dress is therefore said to be indecent when it has provocative or stimulating influence on almost all those that happen to view it on the user. Although, there are no universally acceptable ways of dressing, dresses are meant to serve some definable purposes, notwithstanding one's country or region. They are part of people's culture and they define their tribal or ethnic identity. Apart from dresses being a means for cultural identity, they are also for ornamental or aesthetic purposes, for protection of the body against harsh weather conditions as well as for covering the intimate part of the body. These purposes are important especially as they form major aspects of a person's personality. Sadly indecent appearance has come to characterize the dress pattern of many students on the campuses of higher learning in Nigeria. There

is hardly any higher institution of learning in this country that is not faced with this nauseating problem. Taking a close study of some of the Nigerian Daily Newspapers, one would see series of pictures that testify to the fact that dressing among young people is 'sexy' and indecent. (Ewulo, 2016)

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Dressing is a very important part of man's culture and life, and it defines a man's tribe or ethnic identity. The pattern of dressing in human beings is by their norms, values, weather, and resources obtainable in their geographical location. In academic institution, Students and some lecturers dress out of context of their culture and religious acceptance which is very appalling; that has left a host of disorderliness in our institutions of learning as well as in the community. On this note, indecent dressing on Auchu Polytechnic campus is a deliberate act by students and some lecturer to expose sensitive parts of their body for public view. This issue has become alarming and deserves urgent attention if we are to safeguard present and future and generation from immoral practices such as indecent dressing. This has led to this study of an assessment of the influence of Auchu Polytechnic Crusade on Indecent Dressing by Staff and Students.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to assess of the influence of Auchi Polytechnic crusade on indecent dressing by students and staff of the institution. Specifically, the study will examine the following areas.

- i. Examine the various factors responsible for indecent dressing on Auchi Polytechnic Campus
- ii. Evaluate the effectiveness of dress control measures on campus.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following questions guided the study.

- i. What are the various factors responsible for indecent dressing on Auchi Polytechnic campus?
- ii. How effective is the dress control measures on the campus?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of this study would be of immense benefit to the management of Auchi Polytechnic as it will review the causes and solution to indecent dressing on campus.

The study will also be of benefit to students of Auchi Polytechnic by outlining the danger of putting on indecent dressing especially on campus which also affects their academic performance.

It will also serve as a reference material and guide to future researchers on the researched problems of indecent dressing on campus and its effects on students academic performance.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is delimited to the Assessment of the influence of Auchi Polytechnic Crusade on indecent Dressing by Staff and Students in Auchi Polytecnic, Auchi, Edo State

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following words are defined for better understanding of this study

Assessment: The term assessment refers to the wide variety of methods or tools that educators use to evaluate, or measure, someone or something.

Influence: The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behaviour of someone or something, or the effect itself.

Indecent: the act of offending against generally accepted standards of or good taste;

Dressing: Dressing is an act of putting on clothes for coverage and protection of the body.

Campus: An area of land that contains the main buildings of a university or college.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theory underpinning this study is the modernization theory by the German sociologist Max Weber (1864–1920, in Oli, 2017). The theory is used to explain the process of modernization within societies; it signifies a model of a progressive transition from a pre-modern or traditional to modern society. Modernization theory attempts to identify the social variables that contribute to social progress and development of societies and seeks to explain the process of social evolution. The theory stresses not only the process of change but also the responses to that change. It also looks at internal dynamics while referring to social and cultural structures and the adaptation of new technologies.

Modernization theory suggests that traditional societies will develop as they adopt more modern practices. Proponents of this theory claim that modern states are wealthier and more powerful and that their citizens are freer to enjoy a higher standard of living. Developments such as new data technology and the need to update traditional methods in transport, communication, and production, the theorist argued, make modernization necessary or at least preferable to the status quo. In modernization theory, an attempt has always been made to erode almost all the traditional values either good or bad to

embrace the modern ones, hence, the primary attention of this theory has been made to focus on ways in which past and present pre-modern societies become modern in all facets of lives through processes of economic growth and change in social, political, and cultural structures usually termed as globalization.

Modernization theorists study the social, political, and cultural consequences of economic growth and the conditions that are important for industrialization and economic growth to occur. Yet the underlying cultural consequences, as well as its health-related consequences have not been provided with considerable explanations. The concept of indecent dressing factored in this study is cogent to the modernization theory. This is because students who dress indecently often attribute the changes or transformation in their dress pattern to modernization, civilization, or being in tune with the changing times. This they acquire through interaction with modern technologies such as television, Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. This leads to the acquisition or adoption of foreign or western culture at the detriment of the African or Nigerian culture. (Oli, 2017)

DRESS CODE

Cole (2018) defines indecent dressing as “dressing which a particular society frowns at or rejects entirely, simply because it does not reflect its culture and acceptable way of dressing.” A dress code is a set of rules governing what garments may be worn together and in what setting. Examples of dress codes are combinations such as “smart casual”, or “morning dress”. A classification of these codes is normally made for varying levels of formality and times of day.

In traditional western dressing for men, the more formal dress codes, such as “black tie”, are highly codified with essentially fixed definitions, mostly unchanged for more than fifty years, while the more casual classifications change very quickly and worldwide or widely relevant discussions are impossible. For women, changes in fashion are more rapid. In practical use, dress codes are either followed intuitively or enforced by peer pressure, so that people wear similar clothing in the same situation. Alternatively, at more formal events where a dress code is specified, invitees wear cloths at the specified level, if so, variations are permitted. For example, black tie preferred, the host will wear the most formal options to save guest the embarrassment of out-dressing him. Appropriate national variations are also widely worn as an exception to the trend of uniformity with peers, often in the form of headgear.

STUDENTS AND INDECENT DRESSING ON CAMPUS

Indecent dressing also known as "dress to kill" has become rampant among universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education students (Akpan, 2018), particularly the female students in Auchi Polytechnic all in the name of fashion and the desire to look sexy, sensuous, tantalizing, and stimulating. Some female students in tertiary institutions have become victims of rape and other social vices. Wearing skimpy clothes, also known as strapless and bumper short, blouses and sagging of trousers—"low waist" by boys and even ladies, cleavages and sleeveless shirts also known as spaghetti or off-shoulder, dying of hair, use of contact lens, fixing of eyelashes and nails, use of earrings in males and nose rings for females, body piercing and tattooing, micro miniskirts, condom leggings are major moral problems associated with decency in dressing observed in tertiary institutions in Auchi Polytechnic. Apart from the skimpiness and tight-fitting nature of these dresses, they are again transparent; revealing certain parts of the bodies that under normal and acceptable dress patterns ought to be hidden away from the glare of the public. Male students in tertiary institutions nowadays fix hairs, piece ears, thereby making them look like hardened criminals. This unfortunate societal ill has now eaten deep into the fabrics of tertiary institutions to the point of it becoming a normal trend. One's dress can show if one is responsible or not. As the popular saying goes

“you dress in the way that you will be addressed”. What you wear affects others' perceptions of you. This is to say that the type of dress that one wears communicates his/her social identity. It is therefore necessary to dress in the image one wants to portray oneself. Dressing in a manner in which institutions, society, and religion frowns at is certainly not civilization. (Akpan, 2018)

SOCIETAL VALUES AND INDECENT DRESSING

Indecent dressing as perceived by society is not in line with the Nigerian norms and values. Chukwudi and Gbakorun (2011) asserted that indecent dressing is a threat to our cultural values. This is because such behaviours were only attributed to wayward people in society.

However, this cannot be said now because most youths have adopted this type of dressing especially in higher institutions. Nigeria is known for its strict adherence to cultural norms and values; especially when it has to do with dressing, however this menace has found its way into the citadel of higher learning to the extent it has become a cankerworm.

The proliferation of indecent dressing among students in the citadel of higher learning was observed to be promoted by common phrases that students often use when they are confronted with this wrongdoing. Phrases like "only God can judge me, you can't", "leave them alone" —free me I beg "everyone is entitled to his or her opinion" and "mind your business", among others, have

become the order the day. These phrases have become so common among students of tertiary institutions in Auchi Polytechnic and the society at large; so much so that one finds it difficult to condemn such attitude because the reward for such is usually backlash in form of insults, malice, hatred, and condemnation.

FACTORS INFLUENCING INDECENT DRESSING ON CAMPUS

Various factors may have contributed to indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions in Auchi Polytechnic. Chukwudi and Gbakoruni (2011) believe that it is low self-esteem and perception that push people especially the female undergraduates to dress indecently to attract attention. Eijeden (2010) opined that the family background of the person plays a major role in the dressing pattern of the child. Another major factor is the mass media and the issue of modeling is the prime influence of modern-day dressing patterns among the youths. Factors like home environment, peer group influence, the negative influence of the internet, and changing social values influence indecent dressing.

Omede (2011) attributed the spread of the menace of indecent dressing in our schools and society at large to poor parenting, peer pressure, wrong use of the internet, fading values as well as demonic influence, he further attributed this to some biological changes experienced by both boys and girls as they

grow. According to him, females have high-level secretion of oxytocin and neutrophil hormones (located in the pituitary gland). Thus they dress in seductive and revealing dresses as an expression of readiness or interest in sex. Male on the other hand who have higher testosterone secretion levels are sexually very active. This makes such male expose their manly parts (such as the chest) to show dominance and attract female (adolescents) partners. High secretion or release of neutrophil, oxytocin, and testosterone are responsible for indecent dressing in females and males. The media has a great role in stirring African youths to abandon their customs and engage in indecent dressing. African adolescents are big admirers of western values than their own. For example, a recent study conducted in Southern Ethiopia on youth (Birhan, 2019) found that the majority of adolescents were victims of westernized media, dressing styles, and haircuts. He concluded that the causes of indecent dressing are peer pressure, poor parenting, foreign influence, wrong use of the internet, covetousness, and the negative influence of social media, the entertainment world, and the fashion world on female students.

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF INDECENT DRESSING ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Indecent dressing leads to a loss of respect for lecturers. It makes students lose time writing assignments and spend much time in parties and

other social functions. It drives students into sex for grades, and can result to low grades, loss of suitors, school drop-outs, examination malpractices, and so on. Low grades, sex for grades, school drop-outs, used as an instrument of the devil, and examination malpractices are the major negative consequences of the indecent dressing on the academic performance of students. Other major negative impact includes an initiation into occult groups as well as other dangerous groups, and seduction of lecturers (to trade their bodies) for marks in the case of the female students. The provocative mode of dressing of students on campuses (especially that of the female students), has led to sexual harassment and other social vices. Indecent dressing contributes to poor academic performance as it makes the student a target of much academic staff for sexual gratification which on refusal may result in failure and victimization. (Akpan, 2018).

THE ROLES OF PARENTS AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN CURBING INDECENT DRESSING

Parents should be good examples to their children especially when it come to the mold of dressing. Parents should always check the children's appearance/dressing and monitor the things they watch on the media and the

internet. The school management can also reward decent dressers, and strictly implement the dress code policy both for the students and for the staff.

Lecturers can also help to send out indecent dressers out of their classes or offices. Some of the students know that they dress indecently, without obeying the dress code, however, they are reluctant to change because they feel people will think they are not in tune with the changing times. The way out of indecent dressing is for adults and parents to be of good examples to the younger generation (Omede and Odiba, 2000). Children watch their parents and copy their behaviours, therefore parents should teach their children the fundamental things they need to learn about correct values, attitudes, and beliefs cherished by society. The policy of dress code in schools should be implemented effectively. This can be achieved if the staffs are made to collaborate with the school management and security personnel.

The fight against indecent dressing on campus of higher learning in Auchi Polytechnic can only be completely won when every facets of the society makes it a responsibility to put a stop to it.

Television, newspapers fashion, style magazines and soft sell magazines are contributing their quota to indecent dressing with titles like; sexy, stumping and killing, there by elevating vice to the lever of virtue. No wonder advertises

are using the opportunity to make use of the female folk for sex appeal to advertise their products.

To this end, the media, parents and all relevant authorities should stand up to the challenge of making sure that all manners of indecency in females and males are eradicated.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter deals with procedures adopted for gathering data for this Study. This is the library method: Books, Newspaper. Magazines, Oral interview etc.

The method used in this work titled “Assessment of the influence of Auchu Polytechnic Crusade on indecent Dressing by Staff and Students” is the exploratory research method design. The exploratory designs allow for individuals to gain more insights and ideals about research problems and the variables and issues associated with them.

Exploratory research method represents the early stage of science. It is mainly concerned with formulating problem for more precise investigation. The purpose is usually to increase the resources familiarly with a phenomenon he/she wishes to study in a subsequent, more structure investigation or familiarity with the setting in which he plans to carry out such an investigation.

Furthermore, in order to ensure an effective study, the researcher used historical design as well, this allows the researchers to look at past records and document that characterize the study and issues of indecent dressing in Nigeria tertiary intuitions.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

The researcher used relevant literature to examine the various causes, effects and consequence of indecent dressing in tertiary institutions with a focus on Auchi Polytechnic. The researcher also adopted the use of interview and group discussion to achieve the purpose of the study.

This study has it that low self-esteem and perception pushes people especially the female undergraduates to dress indecently to attract attention.

Also, findings have it that the mass media and the issue of modeling is another prime influence of modern-day dressing patterns among the youths. Hence most of the youth copy what the mass media shows them.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore concluded as seen in the study that there are students in Auchi Polytechnic who are found of dressing indecently which may be due to the causes listed above earlier in this study. These indecent dressings are seen both with the females as well as the male students.

Therefore, the management of Auchi Polytechnic has a great task of putting an end to indecent dressing on the campus as this as cause more damage to students than good.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Schools management should give orientation to new students immediately after their admission and registration exercise. Conference, seminars, and workshops should be organized for both the students and staff to create public awareness on the importance of dress code. The management should give rewards for decent dressers. Penalty for indecent dressing should be spelled out and strictly implemented. This will prevent further flouting of the law.
- ii. Lecturers and staff should be reminded and encouraged to help in implementing the dress code. Human development Counsellors should organize group and individual counselling and help young people understand the effects of indecent dressing.
- iii. Parents should be good examples to their children, spending quality time with them, monitoring what they wear and carefully selecting clothes they buy for their children from a young age, and being careful with what they expose their children to especially on media or the internet. The students should see themselves as role models; therefore they should be conscious of their mode of dressing.

- iv. Government should reinforce policies that governed the code of dressing especially for students in educational institutions as to minimize dropout rates and indecent dressing in the country.

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