

**CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CULTISM ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF  
STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

**BY**

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STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

**BY**

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**A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF OFFICE  
TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY, AUCHI POLYTECHNIC AUCHI, IN  
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF HIGHER  
NATIONAL DIPLOMAL (HND) IN OFFICE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT**

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## CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned certify that this project work was carried out by ***Edebe Marian Umouku Mat No. ICT/2212070090*** of the Department of Office Technology and Management, Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi.

We also certify that the work is adequate in scope and in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Higher National Diploma (HND) on Office Technology and Management.

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Date

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**Head, Dept. of Office Tech. & Mgt.**

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Date

## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to the Almighty God, the Giver of life and knowledge.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I am most grateful to God Almighty for the success of this work for without Him it could have not been possible

I am also highly indebted to my project supervisor, **Mr. Ogiagah. Z. M.** whose advice, Motivation and Suggestion helped me in completion of this project, indeed the success of the entire work I owe to his constructive criticisms and correction may God continue to bless you.

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My project group mates and to my entire course mate at large. I also wish to appreciate my mom Mrs. Philomina Edebe for her care and encouragement and my siblings Mr. James, Mr. Peter, Mrs. Rita and Mr. Kenneth thanks for all they have done for me, I owe you all the success of my academic pursuit, God bless you.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Title Page --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	i
Certification --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	ii
Dedication --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	iii
Acknowledgment --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	iv
Table of Contents --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	v
List of Table --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	vii
List of Appendices --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	viii
Abstract --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	ix

### CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	1
Statement of the Study --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	3
Purpose of the Study --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	3
Research Questions --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	4
Significance of the Study --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	4
Scope of the Study --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	6
Operational Definition of Terms --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	6

### CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

Brief History of University of Benin --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	7
Concept of Cultism --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	9
Secret Cult Initiation Process --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	13
Types of Secret Cults on Campus --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	14
Causes and Effect of Cultism in University of Benin --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	16
Solutions against joining Cultism in University of Benin --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	21
Summary of Literature Reviewed --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	24

### CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	26
Population of the Study --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	26
Sample/Sampling Technique --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	27
Instrument for Data Collection --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---	27

Method of Data Collection -----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	28
Method of Data Analysis --- ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	28

#### **CHAPTER FOUR**

#### **DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Data Analysis --- ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	29
Findings --- ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	40
Discussion of Findings	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	41

#### **CHAPTER FIVE**

#### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Summary --- ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	43
Conclusion --- ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	43
Recommendations ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	44
Limitation of the Study	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	44
Reference --- ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	46
Appendices -----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	49

## LIST OF TABLES

									<b>Page</b>
Table 1	Population of the Study	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	26
Table 2	Sample size of the study	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	27
Table 3	Sex of Respondents	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	29
Table 4	Age of Respondents	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	30
Table 5	Marital Status of Respondents	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	30
Table 6	Education Level of Respondents	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	31
Table 7	Tabular Analysis of Respondents to Research Question One							---	32
Table 8	Tabular Analysis of Respondents to Research Question Two							---	34
Table 9	Tabular Analysis of Respondents to Research Question Three							---	36
Table 10	Tabular Analysis of Respondents to Research Question Four							---	38



**LIST OF APPENDICES**

										<b>Page</b>
Appendix I ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	49
Appendix II ---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	50

## **ABSTRACT**

The Cause and Effect of Cultism on Academic Performance of students in University of Benin, Benin City is the focus of the study. The Relevant literature were reviewed in line with the existing guide using APA style in the course of carry out these study, Four research questions were formulated to provide direction of the study. The Survey Research Design was used for study. The population of the study was 1,270 and the sample size of 125 secretarial was used while sample random techniques was used to select the respondents. The questionnaire was the instrument used to collect data. Simple percentage method was used to analyzed the data collected. The study revealed that cult member spend more period in school than their counterpart, and that their nefarious activities has led to the untimely death of some cult, members, as well as academic and non academic staff. This study recommended amongst other institution should beef up the security department and equip them with modern and sophisticated tools.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background to the Study**

The emergence of cult activities in institutions of learning in Africa can be traced back to the early 1950s. According to Opuluwah (2002), what is known as campus cultism in institutions started at the university college, Ibadan, Nigeria in 1952. It was formed by Nigeria only Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka and six others who founded the pirate confraternity. The other six are Olumuyiwa Awe, Ralph Opara, and Tunji Tubi, Aigimokhuede, Pius Olegbe, and Olu Agunloye. Their main objectives include the abolition of continuation, revival of the age of chivalry and to end tribalism. to elevate the social life of the campus were orderliness and discipline could be planted in the mind of the students/ youth who were expected to be future leaders in Nigeria and elitism. Arogunnade (2002) lamented that little did Soyinka and his friends realized that they were making history nor did they come to terms with the fact that student and indeed youths radicalism was been given a national boast and the unleashing of a national vanguard. The development was paradoxical to the extent that they little realized that they were laying the foundation for what was to be transformed eventually into gansterism.

In defining cultism, Azelama, Aguda and Imhonda (2000) noted that "cult is an assembly of people united by certain ideals, or symbols and whose rite and ceremonies of Veneration are unique and shrouded in mysteries with secrecy that cannot be broken. Similarly, Maxey (2004) traces the meaning of cult from the Latin word 'cultus' which means to worship or give reverence to deity; Thus, in its original usage, it was simply applied to a religious worshipful group of people regardless the object or person they venerated.

Furthermore, Rotimi (2005) cites the Anthropology definition of 'cult' by Diane (2000) 'as a set of practices and belief of a group in relation to a local goal'. The same dictionary gives a sociological definition of a cult as 'a small group of religious activities which beliefs are typically secret, esoteric and individualistic'. Langone (2006) indicated that cult leaders have absolute control over the members of the movement and as such they use force to subdue them under their command. The authors concluded that because cults tend to be centred, explorative and harmful, they come into conflict with and threatened by the rational open and benevolent system of members families and society at large and that it is an expletively manipulative and abusive group in which member are induce to serve the group leader(s) from these accounts, it can be deduced that cults and cultism have certain elements in common. They are esoteric, shrouded in secrecy, usually made up of a small group of people with a charismatic leader, and may or may not be religious in nature.

This study as a result of observation by meaningful individuals and the media who point out that the issue of disturbances of secret cult in contemporary Nigeria tertiary institution is becoming a progressive social menace and a national question. One may ask if location of the University constitute a factor of secret cult activities happening in tertiary institution. Rotimi (2005) stated that students are attracted to cultist groups for a variety of reasons. He noted that generally, the social atmosphere prevailing in Nigeria Universities provides an inspiring environment for secret cults to thrive. These may include lack of virile student unionism, Individual/private universities where the security system is not tight, erosion of the Traditional academic culture; absence of intellectual debates and all other activities that are components of traditional campus culture.

## **Statement of the Problem**

Tertiary institutions are placed for teaching, learning and researching into the problems of societies and the world. The existence of campus cult activities in our tertiary institution is a serious threat to the realization of this noble objective. It has been observed that cult activities have led to the death of many students and even lecturers on campus. Many other institutions in University of Benin, according to Newspaper reports, live in perpetual fear of cult activities on campus. Observers point out that if these ugly trends are not a measures taken to check them, the future role of our tertiary institutions agents of social-change and national development will be seriously threatened.

It is against this background that this study was faced with the problem of establishing validly the causes and effects of cultism on academic performance of student in University of Benin, and possible measures that can address the problem. Thus, the problem of this study put in a question form is what are the causes and effects of cultism on academic performance of student in University of Benin.

## **Purpose of the Study**

This study is to examine the cause and effects of cultism on academic performance of student in University of Benin, with view to educate the public about the magnitude of the problem. if not properly handled. It will also examine the factors that promote the growth of cultism in our University. Specifically, the study will look at the following areas:

- i. To examine the causes of cultism in the Universities.
- ii. To find out the social factors that lead to students' campus cultism in University of Benin.

- iii. To determine how cultism affect the academic performance of students in Universities.
- iv. To find out the measures that can effectively control campus cult activities in University of Benin.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions shall guide the study.

- i. What are the causes of cultism in University of Benin?
- ii. What are the social problems associated with campus cult activities in University of Benin?
- iii. What measures can effectively control campus cult activities in University of Benin?
- iv. How has cultism affected academic performance of student in the university?

### **Significance of the Study**

This study will be beneficial to Universities Authorities, Parents, Counselors. Researchers, Government and Corporate bodies to assess their shortcomings in their bid to check this menace. It will also help students to take a more rational decision against or concerning joining/associating with cultism.

Parents will also benefits from this study because it will provide them with greater knowledge on the level of involvement and viciousness of the operations of campus cultism problems. Such improved awareness will enhance their advisory role performance to " their

wards vis-a-vis, the consequences of associating with cultism. Parents will also become more co-operative with the appropriate authorities in the handling of issue of secret cults in school.

It will also be beneficial to the academic community as a whole. since it is a research effort and reference material. Based on the results of the study, the Federal Government will be able to appraise their attitude and reactions to incidents of campus cultism in Universities in promulgating Decrees in planning and formulating Education policies and providing adequate study equipment and environment conducive for teaching and learning as well as recreational facilities in universities campuses them necessitate the attainment of school objectives. This will help to establish a firm and a cordial relationship among the students and the lecturers in order to minimize social and emotional conflict arising from frictions and bickering in order to jointly attack a common problem.

The study will be beneficial to the students because when there is peace and harmony in the school, effective teaching and learning will take place. This will enhance high performance of students in examinations. However, the findings bring out the ills of cultism and its effect on students, the learning process and the communities. thus creating awareness in the minds of all stakeholders in education; ministry of education, other educational agencies, and galvanizing them for positive action to end the menace and change of attitude and behavior.

Furthermore, the study also provide information for law enforcement agencies in order to improve existing laws, rule's and regulations regarding students engaged in cultism and violence on tertiary education institutions and the public. Also, the study is significant because it proves suggestions on how to combat the problem of cultism on campuses and engender and inject good values and practices into minds of those students who might be supporting cultism on tertiary education campuses.

Finally, communities associated with cultism will find significance in the results of the study because it will create awareness about the ills of the menace and collective effort will be made to end it.

### **Scope of the Study**

This study is limited to the causes and effects of cultism on academic performance of students using four Departments in the University of Benin as a case study.

### **Operational Definition of Terms**

The following words are used to express ideas in the course of this study.

**Cult:** A system of religious worships especially one that is expressed in rituals.

**Cultism:** State or phenomenon where a person is bound together with common belief.

**Masquerade:** An action, manner that appears to be genuine or sincere but is not.

**Initiation:** The process of introducing a person into a group, society or an activity.

**Quest:** The act of seeking or a long search or to find.

**Character Trait:** Behavior displayed by an individual that look different from other individuals in a society or community.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter discusses the procedure and methods of reviewing the relevant literature under the following sub-heading:

Brief History of University of Benin, Concept of cultism, Secret Cult initiation process

Types of Secret Cults on Campus, Causes and effect Cultism in University of Benin

Solutions against joining cultism in University of Benin, Summary of Literature Reviewed

#### **Brief history of University of Benin**

The University of Benin was founded in 1970. It started as an institute of Technology was accorded the status of a full-fledged University by National Universities Commission (NUC) on 15 July, 1971. His Budget Speech in April 1972, the then Military Governor of Mid-Western State, Col. S. O. Ogbemudia.

According to Umukoro, and Tiamiyu, (2017) University of Benin (UNIBEN) is a public research University of Benin City Edo State, Nigeria. It is among the Universities owned by the Federal Government of Nigeria and founded in 1970. The school currently has two campuses with fifteen (15) faculties including a central Library called John Harris Library. Prof. Lilian I. Salami, (NeeEmovon), Ph.D. Prof. Home Economics/Nutritional Education in Benin and hails from Edo State, Nigeria, West Africa. She was born in Jos, Plateau, Nigeria on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 1956. Her early schooling started in Jos but was truncated by the Nigeria Civil War. Her both primary and secondary education was then completed in Edo State. She obtained her West Africa Examination Certificate (O' Levels) from Baptist high school, Benin City. In 1975 she traveled to the United States of America to University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point Campuses and had her summer schooling in the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. She later transfer to North Dakota

State University, Fargo after she got married in 1977. There she obtained her bachelor of science degree in 1979 in Home Economics and Master's degree in Nutrition 1982. She returned back to Nigeria in 1983 and enrolled to service the National Youth Service Corps in Benin City. Upon completion of the National Service, she made a brief start of her teaching career with the University of Ife. now Obafemi Awolowo, Bornu State, Nigeria. Between 1985 and 1994 she lectured Nutrition at the University of Maidguri, Bornu State, Nigeria. This was interjected when she gained admission into University of Nigeria and acted as a Head of Department between 1996 and 1998 and rose to the rank of Professor in 2005. In her desire to be well-grounded in teaching, she gain and obtained a Postgraduate Diplomain Education in 2001, from the University of Benin. In 2004 Prof. Salami proceeded to the Vaal University of Technology, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa as a post-doctoral fellow which she obtained in 2005. She has held numerous positions at the prestigious University of Benin, Director of General Studies, Part-time and Chairman of the Board of University of Benin integrated Enterprise. She has also served as a member in many others committees. She is the immediate past Dean of Faculty Education and was a member of Apex body of the University. The Governing Council. Prof. Salami has taught numerous undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Home Economics and Nutrition. She has successfully supervised over 40 Masters and 15 PhD students. She is a fellow of Nutrition Society of Home Economics/ Home Professional Association of Nigeria. The University of Benin, Benin City, has 12 faculties, 88 departments and there are 40,000 students, comprises of both Part-time and full-time in the university.

Although the history of cultism on the university campuses in Nigeria dates back to some fifty years, its involvement in violence became manifest only some two decades ago. The existence of these groups on campuses has made life unsafe and meaningless to bothstaff and -

students. Their activities includes: harassing any non-members who snatched a member's girl friend or 'sugar daddy' (in case of female cultism): harassing any female students who refuse their amorous advances; harassing any lecturer who insist on merit for passing examination among others.

### **Concept of Cultism**

Cultism in University of Benin dates back to pre-colonization when a group of people with the main aim of seeking protection from their ancestors conducted rituals Secret cults have always existed in many parts of the country. The Ogboni secret cult is notable among the Yorubas, Epe secret cult among the Efiks, Ekine cult in the Delta region and Owegbe cult among the Edos (Adeola, 2007). Almost everywhere in the world, different types of secret rituals groupings are manipulated in the articulation of organization functions for a variety of society and political purposes. These societies differ in what is kept secret and what public. In some, membership is secret, but the rituals are not, while in some others, membership is made public but rituals are secret According to Opaluwah, (2009), one positive thing about these societies is that they do harm unless provoked and they could serve as an instrument for clearing the society of any cultural debris. The author argued that some even serve as socialization groups that initiate men and women into adulthood as in Pro and Mendel societies in Sierra Leone and the Oviaosese in Ogoni land.

Today, cult groups in tertiary institutions are violent, maim, kill and carry out many anti-social activities on campuses. This calls for various efforts to outlaw them in the institutions. Nigeria educational institutions were not associated with secret cults until 1952 when Wole Soyinka (now Professor) and six others (Olumuyiwa Awe, Ralph Opara. TunjiTubi, DaigImokhuede, Pius Olegbe, and OluAgunloye) formed the Seadog confraternity (a. k. a

Pirates). The ideas behind the formation of the confraternity were both patriotic and altruistic as it was not imagined as a secret cult. The main objectives of the seadogs as summarized by Orintusin(2009) were: to fight non-violently but intellectually and effectively against the imposition of foreign conventions; to revive the age of chivalry; and to find a lasting solution to the problems of tribalism and clivism.

Today, there are about forty-five (45) secret cults in Nigerian institutions of learning and are all equipped with an elaborate hierarchy, insignia and distinct attire. Some of the most notable of these secret cults include the Black axe, Eiyé confraternity. Vikings. Amazons, Buccanner, Mafia and Dragons. The female students are not left as they have their own groups among which are Temple of Eden, Frigates, Barracudas, and Daughters of Jezebel among others (Adewale, 2005).

Two articles reported that gang-like warfare among rival cults using sophisticated weaponry as become the norm at the Nigeria Universities such as the University of Benin (Uniben) in Edo state. (Okwu, 2004 and Adetu, 2004). According to an article in this day, at least 115 students died between 1993-2003 as a result of cult activities at Nigeria Universities.

In March 2004 two Uniben students, one a Medical student just about to graduate were murdered suspected cultists (Adetu, 2004). The medical student was reportedly "hacked to pieces" in broad day light immediately after writing his exams.

It has never been easy to give a comprehensive definition of the term "Cult". This is because the term cultism could be applied to a wide range of group and could convey different meaning by different users. Okwu, (2006) cited Denga, (2001) where the author defined cultism as a system of religious belief and practices or ideology. Also, Orupe. (1998) noted that "Cults are a group of people who share and propagate peculiar secret beliefs divulged only to Member",

Occultism or possession of mystical power is often associated with cults. The veracity of this is difficult to ascertain because of their secret *modus operandi*. Cult can be seen as a group of people that are devoted to a particular cause. In real sense cult *per se* is not evil, it is rather the anti-societal behavior of its members that make it to be evil and a cause of concern to society.

According to the Free Encyclopedia (2010), the literal and traditional meaning of the word 'Cult' is derived from the Latin word 'Cultist' meaning 'Care' or 'Adoration'. To the sociologist of religion, term is used to describe 'a loosely knit organization not characterized by tolerance and open mindedness in matter of belief and practice, while in the media and everyday conversation the word suggests a spurious, secretive, sinister and harmful group (Albatross,2006). Lalichand Langone, (2006) made the following remarks about the behavior of cultists - the group displays excessively zealous and unquestionable commitment to its leader and regards his belief system, ideology and practices as the truth. The authors noted that questioning, doubts and dissents are discouraged or even punished. Rotimi, (2005) asserted that secret cult phenomenon is not new in Africa. Citing Aguda, (2007), the author observed that the activities of secret cults, like 'Human Leopard' and 'Human Crocodile', have been recorded in central Africa. Furthermore in Citing Thomas (2002), the author stated that cultist groups enjoy subtle support and patronage from both government and school authorities. Cult members were sometimes used by politicians for revenge and setting personal scores. He went on to state that in case, past members who has migrated to foreign countries sometimes remitted money to support their former cult groups.

According to Akor (2004), one the earliest reported secret cult violence occurred at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1985 when a non-cult student of latter's girlfriend. Adewale (2005) also reported the following: in 1991 a student of University of Port- Harcourt was beheaded during a feud between cult members; at Delta State University in -Abraka, the

activities of secret cult groups resulted in the death of a Principal Assistant Registrar and his wife; on 5th August, 2002 a 300 level economics student was dead and slaughtered at the Dalimore area of Ado- Ekiti, the capital of Ekiti State.

On 8th June 2006, some cult members invaded University of Ado- Ekiti at 12 noon where they burnt the cadet's office, killed three students and wounded many students and staff of the University (Omoegun and Akanle 2007). The authors also reported that on June 28, 2006, a lecturer (SeunOyodola) was abducted and killed during a clash between cults at the OlabisiOnabanjo University Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State. Cultists have struck and killed many students in higher institutions in Nigeria, with the most gruesome happening at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife when about ten students were gunned down in the day by cultists (Jamiu 2008).

Activities of cults is a sort of derailment from what started as a forum to awaken socio-cultural consciousness of our elite to fight oppression, racism and colour discrimination has been bastardized, due to various factors. Ogidefa (2008) also reported that on July 10, 1999, five student of Obafemi Awolowo University were killed (the slain students were George YemiIwilade, the then Secretary General, OAU Students Union. Tunde Oke, a member of Democratic Sociolis Movement, EfeEkede, EvianoEkelemu and yemiAjiteru). On October 2003, three students KehindeDosumu, OmotayoSuraju and Olalekan (2008) also reported that Tony Ileobuna, acting Head of Geoloy department at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology was murdered; Yomi Edeki of University of Benin was killed on February 4th, March 92004 Vincent Oloho of University of Benin, Benin-City was also murdered in cold blood. Again, July 2004.

Wale Adeyori and Banji of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro were also killed; AshifatOlatuji Sheed, a student of the Polytechnic Ibadan was slaughtered in March, 2005; Gbega Joseph, a police command was killed by suspected cultist in June 2005.

### **Secret Cult Initiation Process**

Aiyemoba, (2003) claimed that the initiation process is to take someone as a new member of a group and this involves rites roles and rumble. While Tijani, (2005) stated that cultist initiation, which is also known as blending, involves some solemn ceremonies that cover the learning process and backed with a lot of singing and dancing. From the above citation, it is clear to say that cultism initiation often involves beating and battery in the midst and euphoria of dancing and singing. There are about three (3) stages or faces of the initiation process, viz

Stage one - Introduction

Stage two - Blending rehearsals

Stage three - Final initiation

Stage One: In this stage, all the recipients who are to be initiated are taken to the forest (bush) to commence the process of initiation at about a specific time best known as zero-zero hours. The major activity carried out is the introduction of those who are to be initiated to the rest of the brotherhood who will do a quick survey of the recipients. These recipients are poured according and ask to fight each other. This is also called the first jaw-jaw.

Stage Two: The second stage, which is the second jaw-jaw, is also similar to the first. There, each of the recipients would be mobbed and beaten at random. Many will want to decline and not wanting to continue in the initiation process but they will be warned seriously, that once you have gotten to the bush, there is no going back, so the native initiate will pretend to be hard and allow the third stage of the initiation to start.

Stage Three: This stage is known as the jaw-jaw, which is the climax of the initiation. At this point, legs would be tied; initiate will be laid down on bare ground. While some group of the members would be given strokes of cane at random to beat them until they are commanded to stop, it does not matter if the initiates dies in the process. Some people faint get maimed for life or in some extreme cases dies. During the period of intake and drinking of kokoman, initiate are made to pledge allegiance by swearing to an Oath to abide by the terms of the brotherhood and if they renege or divulge the secrets of the cult, something terrible will happen to them. They may pledge an oath as follows, putting their hands on skull of human being after drinking the kokoman and say:

"I (name of the initiate), hereby pledge and swear as follows that I will keep NAS. to be an agent of murder, carrying out my mission without sympathy or feeling remorseful. I will fight against oppression and I will promptly respond to the cry of my brother to live and die a committed member of the National Association of Sea Dogs. If I ever let this movement down, may this Kokoman squeeze life out of me, help me kokoman. Ayemoba. (2003)". This covenant is sealed with bloods after the intake of the kokoman believe that it is an ordinary mixture of wine and beer but also contains, blood. Unknown to the initiates.

### **Types of Secret Cults on Campus**

The Student Handbook of Information, University of Benin (UNIBEN) listed about fifteen (15) known secret cults in the various institutions of higher learning as follows:

Pirates Confraternity, Buccaneer (BAN), Black Axe, Vikings, Mafia, Eiy Confraternity.

Jurist

Amazons, Jezebel, Supreme daughter of Medusa, White Angels, Dirty Virgins, K.K.K.

Dirty Bra, Warlord.



Other list of cultism as contained in the students handbook of information as follows:

Tango, Black Beret (BB), Superior Queens (SQ), Black Babbra

It will be necessary to have a brief history on some cult organizations on campus in tertiary institutions in Edo State.

Pirates: This cult was found in order to portray and protect the interest of student and counter the unnecessary imposed on by some lecturers in those days.

Black Axe: Black Axe confraternity was formed by seven students led by Akoyibo in the early 80s at the University of Benin (UNIBEN). This group initial aim was to stand a corrosive measure in the school, by publishing deeds in the campus on their monthly magazine 'Black Axe' which become popular and thereby popularized the name.

Vikings: The actual introduction of Vikings as a cult in Auchi polytechnic Auchi is not very clear. However, the cult secret awareness in the school by using the Black Axe, which resulted to 1998/1999 section crisis in the polytechnic.

The confraternity was formed by group of men in Yoruba land who believed that the Africa charms Black power should be used in group activities. Ologbosern. (2003). This cult formed was formed in 70s at the Kuti Hall in University of Ibadan. Eiye which simply means Bird in Yoruba language is a symbol for witch-craft. The Eiye Confraternity was registered as the Supreme Eiye Confraternity (SEC). They have a flying owl carrying skull. Which drips blood as its symbol and has its regalia.

Jezebel cult was the first female cult to be established in Nigeria campus, which was formed in the 90s at Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma. Osawe, (2005). This group of female confraternity sprang up as a result of relationship with some male cultist in the campus and female seeking vengeance and wanting protection against other boys. Before a girl or a lady-is

accepted into this cult, five men or boys will have violent sex with her in quick session in order to know if the lady fit into the cult. They are known for their event dressing, which they use to trap other male cultist. They are to trap male in other cult and also to influence to officials and lecturers on campus and top government officials

### **Causes and Effect Cultism in University of Benin**

The following are various causes of cultism on campuses, some of which are examined as follows:

Influence of Peer Group, Parental Background, Societal Decadence, Erosion of Education Standards, Militarization of the Nigerian Polity, Ignorance and curiosity, financial security Political popularity, Victimization and intimidation. Future security, Inferiority complex

**Influence of Peer Group:** There is no doubt that peer group influence is a potent factor that compels young undergraduates to join secret cults. Ibeh. (2005) posited that. The period of adolescence is marked by intense social relationship in any environmental he she finds himself. At adolescent, there is a shift of emphasis on social relationship fran the parents to peer group. As adolescence breaks the total reliance and contact with his her parents, he/she shifts same to the newly acquired group which in most cases is uny group on campus he/she embraces. Akinfolarin, (2003) and Omoegun and Akanle, (2007) also reported in their studies that peer group influence is one of the reasons students join cultism.

**Parental Background:** Students, who come from homes where codes of good conduct and discipline are strictly enforced, are proved to cultism. Olajuigbe, (2001) reported that parental background, lack of moral instruction at home and the manner inwhich explained the child is that brought excessive could control be a favour by parents, in enrolment too many as rules a member could make of a individual cult. The author tense and anxious while a child whose freedom

knows no bound may be a ready candidate for cult membership. According to Mgbekem. (2004), some parents love their children to the extent of pampering them. When they do a wrong thing instead of scolding them, they allow the children go free from the offence. They grow up with such negative habit and consequently imbibe criminally-oriented behavior which leads them to joining cult groups, Owoye, (2012) also established a very strong link between weak and defective family background and influence and tendencies for students to join secret cults. According to the authors, parents themselves might be members of secret cult. Cult members may come from broken homes where child abuse and neglect are very rampant. Ayodele, and Ayodele, (2002) also identified family breakdown as one of the causes of cultism on campuses. According to them, a child who comes from broken homes is exposed to parental negligence and frustration. Such child is easily induced into cultism. According to Ogunbameru, (2004), Freud's frustration - Aggression hypothesis stipulated that frustration leads to aggression either towards the perceived sources of interference or displaced to another object. Thus some students joined cult to get over the frustration they encountered because of broken homes.

**Societal Decadence:** The Nigeria society has willingly or unwillingly provided an enabling environment for all forms of crimes among which is the problem of campus secret cult. Ogunbameru, (2009) lamented. The author argued that Nigeria has replaced honour with dishonor as a standard attitude. Mgbekem, (2005) also lamented that youths nowadays imbibed immoral values instead of inculcating moral and decent values. The author posited that this accounts for why the youth see or feel no qualms in joining secret cult. Okeowo. (2004) also linked youths propensity to join cult to the general state of normlessness existing in Nigeria.

**Erosion of Education Standards:** The economic downturn in the 1980s and early 1990s in the country encouraged corruption and erosion of standards in the educational system. Most

students gained admission into the universities with dubious credential (Akinfolarin, 2003). Such student, because of their low-self image find solace in cultism in order to survive the academic rigors at all cost. For such students, to survive the academic system becomes a game of survival at all cost and as such they join cult groups to intimidate lecturers and the school Authorities.

**Militarization of the Nigerian Polity:** The culture of violence which has become part and parcel of the Nigerian polity has many faces among which are military coups. state sponsored violence, political assassinations, activities of ethnic militia and communal clashes. Adewale, (2005). The author argued the official introduction of violence as way of resolving political conflicts. Ibukun, (2006) also highlighted militarization of the Nigerian polity for decades as a factor for cultism in Nigerian tertiary institutions. While the happenings in the university are an offshoot of the larger society, violence became pressed into the psyche of an average Nigerian. Poor economic prospects that accompany democratic governance in Nigeria seen to make cultism an attractive option for youths. Besides, efforts by some power \-drunk politicians to gain power at all costs, make them to train or recruit members as things in order to suppress their political opponents. Other reasons for cultism in tertiary institutions (identified in literature reviewed) include lack of recreation facilities, decay in social life and increasing materialism of the society (Omoegun, and Akanle, 2007); lack of virile students union, erosion of traditional academic culture (Adewale, 2005); quest for power. status and protection (Okwu, 2006); the desire to hold elective posts in the students union and the desire for security (Ajayi, and Ayodele, 2002).

**Ignorance and Curiosity:** When a particular knowledge is hidden from somebody he will be curious and go at any length to seek for with excitement. For instance, when secret cult issues are being discussed they would want to contribute but for the fact that they are ignorant of the

idea, they will want to know more and so in their quest to knowing more they get their fingers burnt.

**Financial Security:** The poverty level in Nigeria is so high that, many parents cannot afford to cater and provide basic need for their wards in school and some are not able to send their wards to school conveniently. Many who eventually get admission into tertiary institutions will want to associate with people in order to get something to keep body and soul together. Hence, they will join secret cult to extort money from other students and involve in raw deals such as human parts trafficking, stealing, and robbing in order to get money to pay their bills or fees.

**Political Popularity:** Some campus politicians settle some cult members in order for them to win the elections or be protected against any form of attack that can come from students within the campus. Most often, these cult members or group enter into a treaty with the politicians so that when such politicians win the election they will be given free hands of operation within the campus.

**Victimization and Intimidation:** Many students are intimidated and victimized by cultist campus, they are faced with this problem, and the students will believe that there is no option apart from joining them. Some are even bundled into cultism by false accusation set up etc.

**Inferiority Complex:** Some students feel they are not given special regards for being whom they are. Some as a result of not being called upon to control an office or head a group, they will feel not recognized or being viewed as inferior. Based on this wrong illusion, some of them will want to associate with other groups which will eventually leads them into cultism.

The attendant effects of cultism on the learning process cannot exhausted as both intra and inter-cult clashes negatively affect the students in a very high proportion. It sometimes leads

to incarceration, rustication or expulsion of both innocent and student member (Opaluwah, 2009).

A lot of lives and properties have been destroyed through cult violence (Mgbekem, 2004). Young undergraduates who are supposed to be leaders in future have fallen victims of trigger-happy cultist (Jamiu, 2008). Our youth population is being gradually decimated due to cult activities. In the Niger-Delta where cult violence is wide - spread in recent times, properties worth billions of Naira have been destroyed in communities in the area. Communities have been sacked as inhabitants flee to different places for safety (Adewale, 2005).

The peace on campus is adversely affected whenever there is cult invasion, this may result suspension of academic for some time. Times without number, academic activities in these institutions have been brought to a standstill due to cult violence Campus cultist kill, maim and rape fellow students and even lecturers. Lecturers are threatened into awarding unmerited scores to cultist who do not attend classes (Opaluwah, 2009). Mgbekem, (2004) lamented that nights are no longer safe in university hostels because of frequent cult disturbances and insecurity. Some parents now prefer off campus accommodation for their children in tertiary institutions for fear of being victims of campus cultist's rampage. In reality, cultist seems to put some lecturers who may want to punish students unjustly on their toes, as they may not want to be the next victim of cult's unwholesome activities. Besides, politicians who want to get to power by force, employ the cultists as political thugs to threaten opponents, and also to manipulate the electoral process.

Due to the activities of the cultists and their sponsors who supply them with sophisticated weapons to prosecute communal clashes or to gain upper hand in power struggles, there are illegal weapons in all nooks and crannies of the tertiary institutions. some cities, towns and

villages. The cultists who are in possession of such illegal weapons sometimes used them for perpetration of crimes.

### **Solution against joining cultism in University of Benin**

Over the past two decades, various attempts have been made to deal with the problem of cultism. The various measures taken to address the spate of cultism in Nigerian tertiary institutions include the enactment of Decree 47 of 1989 that pronounced a number of year jail term for any cultist found guilty (Fasanmi, 2006). Ibeh.(2006) also posited that Rivers State government made a law stipulating a ten years jail term sentence without an option of fine for cultism. Also, the Federal Republic of Nigeria under Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in 2000 issued a three-month ultimatum to all vice-chancellors to eradicate cultism from the campuses. Some higher institutions also set up anti-cult groups consisting of the student body itself and some security agents to monitor and check the activities of cultists on campus. Despite the various measures, it appears the proliferation of cult groups and their dastard acts continue unabated perhaps due to the lukewarm attitude of the government and the university authorities to enforce the rules. Ogidefa. (2008) posited that there are allegations that some vice-chancellors were sponsoring cult activities in their universities to silence the voice of dissent. The appears not to augur well for a citadel of learning. The following are the suggested solutions to the menace of cultism in Nigeria tertiary institutions. The following are the suggested solutions to the menace of cultism in Nigeria tertiary institutions:

Government and non-governmental agencies should step up their campaigns against cultism and its destructive tendencies. The evil nature of cultism should be explained to young people in schools at all levels through sensitization, seminars and workshops. Osaigbovo. (2000)

recommended that through seminar, workshops symposium, poster, handbills and public lectures, cultism may be effectively combated.

Also government and school authorities should includes recreational and others similar activities to promote positive engagement with students. If student engage in activities that instill in them a sense of worth, and make them feel assured of a good future, they are less likely to get carried away with occultist group promises.

The school authorities should protect the students from any political indoctrination by avoiding political campaign on campuses and preventing all avenues for funding and benefiting from the activities of occultist students. especially during election.

Parent should desist from being members of secret cults and also prevent their from joining bad groups. Moral education should be re-introduced in all spheres our lives and that decadent society should be spiritually reawakened The parents nefarious organizations and government are to work jointly on this measure. Parent should be more vigilant concerning the activities of their children within and outside the

There must be improved facilities and improved living conditions on campuses se as to minimize perceive strain in the social system which underlines cultism on the campuses (Adewale, 2005). Omoegun, and Akanle, (2007) suggested that universities should be re-organized, funded and. should be provided with games so as to make universities attractive, involving. so that youthful exuberances of students will find a rewarding outlet in competitive sports like football, athletics which could engage student in their spare times.

The authorities of higher institutions of learning must show doggedness in their determination to stamp out cultism. They must brace up to the challenges of cultism which has become one of the most potent evils of the recent time. Adewale, (2005) suggested that it is very



necessary for the committee of Vice-Chancellor of the Nigeria universities to adopt a common and uniform approach to solving the problem of cultism. The issue of former cultists who sometimes return to universities as staff must be looked into.

Students who do belong to cults can be organized into anti-cult vanguard to watch and report cult members to the university authorities or to law enforcement agents. Jamiu, (2008) posited that the school authorities or to law enforcement agents. Jamiu (2008) posited that the school authorities must intensify armed patrol and surveillance on.

The current effort where students form vigilante groups to monitor cultists should be encouraged. Prompt actions against offenders worsen the situation. It is suggested that any member of the public, no matter how highly placed, linked with the activities of cultism in campus should be tracked down and brought to book.

Others suggested solution against joining cultism as students are as follows:

**Avoids Late Night Parties:** If you have heard the word combination "catch the young". The cultist probably use this popular word combination more than everyone else. and they know exactly where to go achieve their goals. Fresher's welcome party in the night is one of the most targeted events for recruitment purposes. If you must party and you can't with being religious and attending parties arranged by student religious bodies like NCCE and MSSN, do it during the day and don't exceed 8pm there if it extends. Also you should make sure that you ask about the organizers and the availability of security.

**Night Class:** Night class are very important for you as a student to excel and reach your study goals, but ensure that you are intelligent while going about it. Don't just go to out to classes to read as a fresher in a new location, ask about the route to night classes and how things go as

regards crime and cult activities. In most cases should try to walk in group and avoid unnecessary wandering at night.

**Make Enquiring Before Choosing Accommodation:** Ask a lot of question before choosing accommodation. Cultist usually occur in some places more than in other places Ask about how secure the location can be and consider the advice properly before choosing accommodation.

**Watch Your Friends:** There is a saying show me your friend and I tell you who you are. It is crucial to select your friends wisely, you can do whatever you want but you will save yourself a lot of problems if you avoid being close to people who exhibit some of the signs of cultist. There are many obvious lifestyles that give away a cultist or someone with a high possibility to commit crime. Most tattooed students are cultist. Although not all. they usually o out all night and when they eventually go in the day they go in cliques, they relates with their friends in a weird language and make unique handshakes that they share with you, and so many more.

**Mind Your Dressing (Be Colour Conscious on Certain Days):** We probably have heard of people that get harassed and told to put their clothes in public. That is because the person dressed in a way that is peculiar to a cult gang dominating the area and has provoked them, Dressing up in a single bright colour or black can draw unwanted attention, blue, red, yellow and black are colour you should avoid wearing as the single colour. Mind your hair style too.

### **Summary of Literature Reviewed**

This review tried to trace the origin of campus cult in Tertiary Institutions to a group of seven students of the then university college Ibadan that formed what was called Pyrate Confraternity. Other secret societies in today tertiary institutions are offshoots of the pyrates. The

year 1952 was given as the founding date of the pyrate. The aim of the ancestral confraternity was to right the social ills in the campus then.

Several factors that encourage and facilitate the prevalence of campus cult was also highlighted. The nature of the secret societies was portrayed and surrounded with secrecy and hence is right bound. In conscripting number however, the societies take care of recruit persons whose membership will be of help and protection to the society Various secret cults were mentioned in the literature, their existence varied across the universities campuses in the country. Several universities in the country reported to have experience different shades of secret society activities. The review also presented suggestions and actions on control of secret cults. All and sundry have duties to play to curtail their activities and the society at large.

The daunting task confronting parents, tertiary education administrators, policy makers, researchers and educational planners is what to do about this cultic problem various attempts have been made Nigeria to put this issue of cultism under control. These attempts range from financial inducement, psychological manipulation to draconian laws aimed at curbing this menace. But as it seems, all these attempts have not been very successful and cultism continue to pose serious problems on tertiary education institutions, campus and in the wider society.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter describes the procedures the researchers employed in conducting the investigation for this study under the following subheadings: Research Design, Population of the study, Sample/Sampling Technique, Instrument for Data Collection, Method of Data Collection and Method of Data Analysis.

#### **Research Design**

This study used descriptive survey design. This is because it is reliable and flexible and cost effective. It allows the researcher to collect data from the respondents with the use of questionnaire.

#### **Population of the Study**

The population of the study is 1,270 consists of all the students in School of Business Studies, Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi as contain in the table below:

**Table 1: *Population Size***

	<b>Level</b>	<b>Population</b>
Department of Business of Administration	ND1	80
	ND2	60
	HND1	50
	HND2	40
Department of Accountancy	ND1	85
	ND2	70
	HND1	60
	HND2	50
Department of Public Administration	ND1	90
	ND2	80
	HND1	70
	HND2	60
Department of Marketing	ND1	70
	ND2	65
	HND1	60
	HND2	50

Department of Banking & Finance	ND1	75
	ND2	65
	HND1	50
	HND2	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,270</b>

### Sample/Sampling Technique

The sample size of this study is 125 and Simple Random Sampling was used to select them. As shown on the table below:

**Table 2: Sample size of the study**

	Level	Sample Size
Department of Business of Administration	ND1	8
	ND2	6
	HND1	5
	HND2	4
Department of Accountancy	ND1	8
	ND2	7
	HND1	6
	HND2	5
Department of Public Administration	ND1	9
	ND2	8
	HND1	7
	HND2	6
Department of Marketing	ND1	7
	ND2	6
	HND1	6
	HND2	5
Department of Banking & Finance	ND1	7
	ND2	6
	HND1	5
	HND2	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b>

### Instrument of Data Collection

The instrument used for the collection of data is questionnaire. It was divided into two sections. Section (A), contains demographic data which is meant to provide information such as sex, marital status, age, educational qualification and student's level. While Section (B) is

consists of the questionnaire meant for the study. The questions numbering 1 - 16 in the questionnaire were designed to seek relevant information that will offer answer to the four research questions formulated for the study.

A 4 (four) point response scale of strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree was used for the study.

### **Method of Data Collection**

The questionnaire method was used to collect data from the respondents. Data were also collected with the use of textbook, Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, and Projects of past students as well as Internet Services

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The simple percentage method was used to analyze the data obtained. The data collected were tabulated and itemized according to the responses sought in the questionnaire to answer the four research questions.

The formula for the computation:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Response}}{\text{Total Number of Resondents}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### Data Analysis

This chapter presents the data collection with the questionnaire and the presentation of responses and interpretation of data obtained. This enabled the researcher to arrive at a reasonable interpretation and discussion in order to make the necessary summary, conclusion and recommendation

Based on the population of the stud, the researcher administered 25 copies of the questionnaire to regular students (ND1, ND2, HND1, and HND2) in the following departments: Business of Administration, Accountancy, Public Administration, Marketing and Banking and Finance in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi.

**Table 3**

#### *Sex of Respondents*

Sex	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Male	12	48
Female	13	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

Above showed the distribution of respondents according to sex variable. 12 respondents (representing 48%) are males, while 13 respondents (representing 52%) are females. From this analysis, it is clear that there are more female respondents than male respondents in this study.

**Table 4*****Age of Respondents***

<b>Age</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
15-20 years	4	16
21-25 years	8	32
26-30 years	12	48
40 years and above	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

Above showed the age distribution of respondents. 4 respondents (representing 16%) were within the age range of 15-20 years, 8 respondents (representing 32%) were within the age group of 21-25 years, 12 respondents (representing 48%) were within ages 26-30 years and 1 respondent (represent 4%) were within the age range of 40 years and above.

It is clear that those within the age of 26-30 years constituted the greatest number in the sample respondents selected for the study.

**Table 5*****Marital Status of Respondents***

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	17	68
Married	8	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>



Table 5 above indicated the marital status of respondents. According to the result. 17 respondents (representing 68%) were single, while 8 respondents (representing 32%) were married. Therefore, the number of singles is more than the married respondents.

**Table 6**

***Educational Level Respondents***

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
100	5	20
200	6	24
300	5	20
400	9	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

Above showed the education level of respondents. 5 respondents (representing 20%) are 100 level, 6 respondents (representing 24%) in 200 level, 5 respondents (representing 20%) are 300 level, while 9 respondents (representing 36%) were 400 level students. Therefore, it is evident that the 400 level students have the highest number of respondents.

**Testing the Research Question**

**Research Question One**

**What are the causes of cultism in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi**

Research question on was tested using item 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the questionnaire

**Table 7*****Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question One***

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Adolescent development lead to cultism	Strongly Agree	13	52
		Agree	10	40
		Disagree	2	8
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
2	Peer group influence is one of the factors in joining cults	Strongly Agree	15	60
		Agree	9	36
		Disagree	1	4
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
3	Cultism is an extension of societal corruption into various campuses	Strongly Agree	9	36
		Agree	13	52
		Disagree	3	12
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
4	Quest for power leads to cultism among the students in tertiary institutions	Strongly Agree	15	60
		Agree	8	32
		Disagree	2	8
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

Item I of the questionnaire shows that, “Adolescent development problems lead to cultism” This was provided with four variables. Of the total respondents, 13 respondents (representing 52%) strongly agreed that adolescent development problems lead to cultism. 10

respondents (representing 40%) agrees, 2 respondents (representing 8%) disagreed. This indicates that 52% strongly agree adolescent development problems lead to cultism.

Item 2 of the questionnaire indicates, “Peer group influence is one of the factors in joining cults”. This was provided with four variables. 15 respondents (representing 60%) strongly agree, 9 respondents (representing 36%) agreed, 1 respondent (representing 4%) disagree. This shows that peer group influence is one of the factors in joining cults.

Item 3 of the questionnaire shows that, “Cultism is an extension of societal corruption into various campuses”. This was provided with four variables. 9 respondents (representing 36%) strongly agreed to the statement, 13 respondents (representing 52%) agreed, 3 respondents (representing 12%) disagree. This is an indication that cultism is an extension of societal corruption into various campuses in Nigeria.

Item 4 of respondents shows that, “Quest for power leads to cultism among the students in tertiary institutions”. This was provided with four variables. 15 respondents (representing 60%) strongly agreed to the statement, 8 respondents (representing 32%) agree, 2 respondents (representing 8%) disagreed. This shows that Quest for power leads to cultism among the students in tertiary institutions.

On the whole, the researcher is of the opinion that the causes of cultism can be traced to adolescent developmental problem, peer group influence and quest power.

## **Research Question Two**

### **What are the social problems associated with campus cult activities?**

This research question was tested using item 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the questionnaire

**Table 8*****Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question Two***

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
5	Cult members may spend more than the required number of years for graduation in tertiary institutions	Strongly Agree	12	48
		Agree	13	52
		Disagree	0	0
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
6	The nefarious and nocturnal activities of campus cults have led to the untimely death of cultists, innocent students and staff/lecturers	Strongly Agree	21	84
		Agree	4	16
		Disagree	0	0
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
7	Cult member are involved in kidnapping and armed robbery crimes in the society	Strongly Agree	13	52
		Agree	12	48
		Disagree	0	0
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
8	Activities of cult members sometimes disrupt social and recreational events in the institution involved	Strongly Agree	10	40
		Agree	12	48
		Disagree	3	12
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

Item 5 of the questionnaire show that, “Cult members may spend more than the required number of years for graduation in tertiary institutions”. This was provided with for variables. 12 respondents (representing 48%) strongly agreed, 13 respondent (representing 52%) agreed. This analysis shows that 97% of the respondent opined that Cult members may spend more than the required number of years for graduation in tertiary institutions.

Item 6 of the questionnaire show that, “The nefarious and nocturnal activities of campus cults have led to the untimely death of cultists, innocent students and staff/lecturers”. This was provided with four variables, 21 respondent (representing 84%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 4 respondent (representing 16%) agreed. This shows that the nefarious and nocturnal activities of campus cults have led to the untimely death of cultists, innocent students and staff/lecturers in institutions involved

Item 7 of the questionnaire shows that, “Cult member are involved in kidnapping and armed robbery crimes in the society”. This was provided with four variables. 13 respondent (representing 52%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 12 respondent (representing 48%) agreed. This shows that Cult member are involved in kidnapping and armed robbery crimes in the society.

Item 8 of the questionnaire shows that, “Activities of cult members sometimes disrupt social and recreational events in the institution involved”. This was provided with four variables 10 respondent (representing 40%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 12 respondent (representing 48%) agreed, while 3 respondent (representing 12%) disagreed. This is an indication that the activities of Activities of cult members sometimes disrupt social and recreational events in the institution involved.

For analysis of the whole, it can be concluded that cultism can lead to extension in academic activities of students, nefarious and nocturnal activities on campus, kidnapping and armed robbery and destruction of social and recreational activities.

### **Research Question Three**

**What measure can effectively control campus cult activities in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi?**

This research question was tested using items 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the questionnaire.

**Table 9**

***Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question Three***

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
9	Many students don not attend night lectures/prep for fear of attack by cult groups	Strongly Agree	2	8
		Agree	13	52
		Disagree	10	40
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
10	Some cult students have their educational career terminated abruptly by expulsion or rustication	Strongly Agree	12	48
		Agree	10	40
		Disagree	3	12
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
11	Cult member occasionally falsify and mutilate some official records in school	Strongly Agree	7	28
		Agree	14	56
		Disagree	4	16
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
12	Cult students do not study their books instead they threaten lecturers for marks	Strongly Agree	10	40
		Agree	11	44
		Disagree	4	16
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

Item 9 of the questionnaire shows that. “Many students don not attend night lectures/prep for fear of attack by cult groups”. This was provided with four variables. 2 respondent (representing 8%) strongly agreed to the above statement, 13 respondent (representing 52%)

agreed, while 10 respondent (representing 40) disagreed. This shows that Many students don not attend night lectures/prep for fear of attack by cult groups in the night.

Item 10 of the questionnaire shows that, “Some cult students have their educational career terminated abruptly by expulsion or rustication”. This was provided with four variables. 12 respondent (representing 48%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 10 respondent (representing 40%) agreed, while 3 respondent (representing 12%) disagreed. It is obvious that 93% of the total respondent s are of the view that Some cult students have their educational career terminated abruptly by expulsion or rustication.

Item 11 of the questionnaire shows that, “Cult member occasionally falsify and mutilate some official records in school”. This was provided with four variables. 7 respondent (representing 28%) strongly agreed to the above statement, 14 respondent (representing 56%) agreed, while 4 respondent (representing 16%) disagreed. This is an indication that Cult member occasionally falsify and mutilate some official records in school since they operate in secret.

Item 12 of the questionnaire shows that, “Cult students do not study their books instead they threaten lecturers for marks”. This was provided with four variables. 10 respondent (representing 40%) strongly agreed to the above statement, 11 respondent (representing 44%) agreed, while 4 respondent (representing 16%) disagreed. This shows that Cult students do not study their books instead they threaten lecturers for marks.

From the analysis of the whole, this shows that cultism affects the academic performance of the students as many student do not attend night lectures/prep for fear of attack of cult members have their educational career terminated, many falsify and mutilate official records and do not study their book but rather threatened lecturers for marks.

## Research Question Four

### How has cultism affected academic performance of student in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi

This research question was tested using item 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the questionnaire.

**Table 10**

#### *Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question Four*

S/N	Items	Variables	No. of Respondents	Percentage
13	Disciplining of children and wards consistently especially from early childhood prevents students from joining cult.	Strongly Agree	18	72
		Agree	7	28
		Disagree	0	0
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
14	Encouraging students to join approved religious groups for moral upbringing and spiritual security in God in a solution to joining cult	Strongly Agree	17	68
		Agree	7	28
		Disagree	1	4
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
15	Prohibiting sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks on campus is a control to cult activities in schools	Strongly Agree	18	72
		Agree	5	20
		Disagree	2	8
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
16	Total expulsion of cult members in schools will serve as a deterrent to others	Strongly Agree	9	36
		Agree	16	64
		Disagree	0	0
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>



Item 13 of the questionnaire shows that, “Disciplining of children and wards consistently especially from early childhood prevents students from joining cult”. This was provided with four variables. 18 respondent (representing 72%) strongly agreed to the above statement, 7 respondent (representing 28%) agreed. This is an indication that Disciplining of children and wards consistently especially from early childhood prevents students from joining cult.

Item 14 of the questionnaire shows that, “Encouraging students to join approved religious groups for moral upbringing and spiritual security in God in a solution to joining cult”. This was provided with four variables. 17 respondent (representing 68%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 7 respondent (representing 28%) agreed, while 1 respondent (representing 4%) disagreed. This show that Encouraging students to join approved religious groups for moral upbringing and spiritual security in God in a solution to joining cult.

Items 15 of the questionnaire shows that, “Prohibiting sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks on campus is a control to cult activities in schools”. This was provide with four variables. 18 respondent (representing 72%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 5 respondent (representing 20%) agreed, 2 respondent (representing 8%) disagreed. This is an indication that Prohibiting sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks on campus is a control to cult activities in schools.

Items 16 of the questionnaire shows that, “Total expulsion of cult members in schools will serve as a deterrent to others”. This was provided with four variables. 9 respondent (representing 36%) strongly agreed to the statement above, 16 respondent (representing 64%)

agreed. This shows clearly that total expulsion of cult member in schools will serve as a deterrent to others.

From the analysis of the whole the researcher deduced that the measures that can effectively control campus activities in tertiary institutions are; disciplining of children consistently, encouraging student's to join approved region groups, prohibiting sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks on campus and total expulsion of cult members in schools.

## **Findings**

Based on the analysis of the data from the research instrument, the following findings are drawn:

1. Campus cults are motivated by some factors associated with adolescent development problems, and peer group influence. Other are extension of societal corruption into various campuses and their quest for power which usually lead them to joining the cult.
2. It is also evident that cult member may spend more than the required number of years for graduation and their nefarious activities has led to the untimely death of some cult members, innocent students, as well as staff and lecturers. These cultists involve themselves in kidnapping and armed robbery crimes in the society.
3. It is also proven that many student do not attend night lectures and prep for fear of attack by cult group and these cult members sometimes have their educational career terminated abruptly either by expulsion or rustication in schools

4. As regards to the control measures of campus cult and their activities, consistent disciplining of children and wards from early childhood can prevent students from joining cult. Other measures are encouraging students to join approved religious groups for moral upbringing and spiritual security in God. Finally, the prohibition and consumption of alcoholic drinks on campus is a control to cult activities in schools.

### **Discussion of Findings**

After a careful analysis of the research instrument used in the study, the researcher discovered from the result obtained that the causes and effect of cultism on academic performance of students in University of Benin, can be minimized if not completely eradicated as Tertiary institutions are supposed to be places for teaching, learning and researching into the problem of societies and the world. The existence of campus cult activities in our tertiary institution is a serious threat to the realization of the noble objective. It has been observed that cult activities have led to the death of students even lecturers on campus. Many other tertiary institutions in Edo State, according to Newspaper reports, are in perpetual fear of cult activities on campus. Observers point out that if these ugly trends are not established and measures taken to check them, the future role of our tertiary institutions as agents of social change and national development will be seriously threatened. Therefore, parents should be ready to lay good foundations for their children and provide their basic needs. The school authorities need to scrutinize candidates and check their background before admitting them into school. Political leaders need to stop using youth as thugs for rigging elections, and government

will make and enforce laws that will forbid the existence of any kind of secret cult. For those who are already involved in it, there should be rehabilitation centers where they will be taken to in order to prevent them from influencing others youths in the society.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Summary**

In view of the analyzed data presented in the proceeding chapter, it can be seen that adolescent developmental problems are causes that lead students in tertiary institution to cult groups. There is the influence of peer groups and extension of societal corruption in the country. Most of these students mistakenly feel they are powerful when they are in cults which they can use to intermediate girls, staff and lecturers on campus.

#### **Conclusion**

Campus cult are motivated by some factors associate with indolence, extension of societal corruption, lack of adequate counseling, sponsorship of secret cults by some individuals and old standing member, activities of campus cults also adversely have some impact on some education parameters'. These include lecturers, students, facilities and human activities in the institution. As a regards to the control measures of campus cult and their activities, there is need to refer them to guidance and counseling unit, registering all the societies in the institution, organize periodic counseling for all the students, caution, suspension, expulsion and jailing members who are caught. It has been established in the course of this study that the problem of cultism, among others, is a symptom of society, which is embroiled in moral decadence and where institutionalized and personal violence has become a way of life. Realizing the havoc which cultism has wrecked on both members and non-members of the academic community, all hands must be on deck to combat the menace. Besides, if the tertiary institutions' administration

would come back to its glorious past as well as prepare the nation for the better days, there is the need to rediscover and teach the people concerned the goals of university education.

### **Recommendations**

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

1. Stakeholders in University of Benin should guide and discipline their children at home from childhood, and support institutions and government authorities in efforts to check the menace of cultism.
2. The above institution should beef up the security department and equip them with modern and sophisticated tools and also uphold the truth and be more sincere when handling campus cult issues.
3. The Management of UNIBEN should allow clubs and societies in the institution to register with them and highlight the objectives.
4. The institutional department of guidance and counseling should be assisted to organized an elaborate orientation programme for all new students, where all the ills and implications of cultism should be well spelt out and students be cautioned not to identify with group with cultism.

### **Limitation of the Study**

The possibility that some of the respondents may not be honest with their responses may affect the result. However, the numbers of the responses were good for meaningful generalization of the result.

More so, going from one place to another to collect data and information was not easy and the amount of time spent in surfing the internet, really made it a painstaking research. The epileptic power supply was another factor. Furthermore, was the huge amount of money spent surfing the internet, typesetting and difficulty in using the reference section of library for proper research. Also pose a challenge

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## **APPENDIX I**

Department of Office Technology and Management,  
School of Information and Communication Technology,  
Auchi Polytechnic,  
P. M. B. 13, Auchi.  
7<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

Dear Respondent,

### **Letter of Introduction**

I am a final year Higher National Diploma (HND) student of the above-named department conducting a research on the "Causes and Effect of Cultist on the academic performance of students in University of Benin".

The research work is purely on academic exercise in nature and is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Higher National Diploma (HND) in Office Technology and Management.

Please, you are required to complete the questionnaire to the best of your knowledge as I assure you that, every information you supply must be treated with almost secrecy and purely for the purpose of the study.

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

**Edebe, Marian Umouku**

## APPENDIX II

### Questionnaire

Please supply the following information in Section (A) by marking the appropriate box  
Indicate in Section (B) the extent of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement by marking a tick (v) in the column provided.

The responses are as follows:

#### Section A: Demographic Information

1. Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )
2. Age: 15-20 ( ) 21 -25 ( ) 26-30 ( ) 40 and above ( )
3. Marital Status: Single ( ) Married ( )
4. Educational Qualification: 100 Level( ) 200 Level ( ) 300 Level ( ) 400 Level ( )

#### Section B

- SA - Strongly Agree
- A - Agree
- D - Disagree
- SD - Strongly Disagree

#### Items Related to the Research Questions

S/No	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
	<b>What are the causes of cultism in University of Benin?</b>				
1	Adolescent developmental problems leads to cultism				
2	Peer group influence is one of the factors in joining cults				
3	Cultism is an extension of societal corruption into various campuses				
4	Quest for power leads to cultism among students in University of Benin (UNIBEN)				
	<b>What are the social problem associated with campus cult activities in University if Benin?</b>				

5	Cult members may spend more than the required number of years for graduation in University of Benin.				
6	The nefarious and nocturnal activities of campus cults have led to the untimely death of cultist, innocent student and staff/lecturers.				
7	Cult members are involved in kidnapping and armed robbery crimes in the institution				
8	Activities of cult members sometimes disrupt social/recreational events in the institution				
	<b>What measures can effectively control campus cult activities in University of Benin?</b>				
9	Many students do not attend high lectures/prep for fear of attack by cult group				
10	Some cult students have their educational career terminated abruptly (expulsion or rustication)				
11	Cult members occasionally falsify/mutilate some official records in schools				
12	Cult students do not study their book, instead they threaten lectures for marks				
	<b>How has cultism affected academic performance of students in the University?</b>				
13	Disciplinary of children and wards consistently especially from early childhood prevents students from joining cult				
14	Encouraging student to join approved religious group for moral upbringing and spiritual security in God is a solution to joining cult				
15	Prohibiting sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks on campus is a control to cult activities in school				
16	Total expulsion of cult members will serve as a deterrent to others				