



SOCIAL VICES AND THE EFFECT OF CULTISM ACTIVITIES AMONG UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATES OF EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI, NIGERIA

| Busuyi Victor Oluwasanmi¹ | Olayinka Lola Akande² | and | Olalekan Emmanuel Taiwo³ |

¹ Ekiti State University | Department of History and International Relations | Ado-Ekiti | Nigeria |

² University of Benin | Department of Educational Studies and Management | Benin-City | Nigeria |

³ Ladoké Akintola University | Department of General Studies (Social Work) | Ogbomosho | Nigeria |

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ABSTRACT

Background: Disruptive activities are widespread in the contemporary Nigerian Universities. This is evident in the deluge of social vices witnessed on regular bases. From a historical perspective, a social vice exists when there is sizable difference between the ideals of a society and its actual achievements. The most essential problem facing tertiary institutions in Nigeria is the problem of cultism here and there. The menace and the aggressiveness of cult members and cult related violent clashes and activities on most tertiary institutions campuses have caused the sudden death of lecturers and students. **Objective:** This study examines the main causes of social vices among undergraduate in Ekiti State University (EKSU), Ado-Ekiti, to ascertain the reasons why undergraduate are been engaged in cultism, and to identify some of the measures on how to curb cultism among undergraduates. **Materials and methods:** Both primary and secondary source of data were used and survey design was adopted in this study. A total number of 150 respondents were used for this study and it was made up of undergraduates from nine faculties of EKSU. A simple random sampling procedure was adopted in choosing the population of the study. Questionnaire and in-debt interview guide was used for data collection. The data here was analyzed, using descriptive and statistical packages. **Result:** The findings however showed that some of the causes of cultism are peer group influence, parental influence, to feel high, to be protected and secured, to gain power, for leisure etc **Conclusion:** It has been established in 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. However to curb this menace, government and non-governmental agencies and the media should step up their campaigns against cultism and its destructive tendencies. The evil nature of cultism should be explained to Students at all levels through sensitization, seminars, workshops, symposium, posters, handbills and public lectures.

Key words: *Rapping, poverty, intimidation, frustration, violence*

1. INTRODUCTION

Anti-social activities are rampant in the contemporary Nigerian Universities. This is evident in the deluge of social vices witnessed on regular bases. These problems which include various factors such as social inequality, ethnicity, limited resources, corruption, and other socio-economic crises pervade the length and breadth of the country [1]. There is a wide gap between the expectations of the society and its actual manifestations. Hardly would a day go by without a record of one form of social vices or the other. One may therefore surmise that delinquency is closely associated with civilization. From a historical perspective, a social vice exists when there is sizable difference between the ideals of a society and its actual achievements. From this perspective, social vices are created by the failure to close the gap between the way people want things to be and the way things really are [2]. Certain social conditions are detrimental in any situation. These conditions prevent members of a society from developing and using their full potential. Those conditions like poverty, racism, unequal opportunity are, therefore, social vices in any social setting. There is a common consensus among experts that deviance is a social vice and could be seen as a product of both personal and social traits [3]. Osarenren (2002) argued that any behavior which does not conform to the rules, regulations, norms and values of a given time is viewed as deviance [4]. Social pressures play an important role in the choices students make. In an environment where the degree of social vices is high, then the student would easily fall for the social pressure. This is what the students face on a daily basis. From the foregoing, it is evident that social vices in our society are generating concerns for all and sundry [5]. This study is concerned about the extent to which social vices affect undergraduate of Nigerian Universities.

The most essential problem facing tertiary institutions in Nigeria is the problem of cultism here and there. There is no long existing single institution of higher learning that has not experienced the menace of cultism for one time or another. As we have today, the menace and the aggressiveness of cult members and cult related violent clashes and activities on most tertiary institutions campuses have caused the sudden death of lecturers and students [6]. Over the past two decades, various attempts have been made to deal with the problem of cultism. The various measures taken include the

enactment of decree 47 of 1989 that pronounced a number of jail term for any cultist found guilty [7]. 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 [8]. Despite the various measures, it appears the proliferation of cult groups and their dastard acts continue unabated.

The attention of the government and the society at large is the introduction of violent savagery and terrorism into the present day cut a diametrical contrast to what obtained in yester years it is now common in our campuses that factors of ravel cults violent clashes even in broad day light and fight themselves down with weapons such as guns, and daggers, nocturnal initiation ceremonies in which initiated are animalized and some of them die in the process of making blood covenants and performing other occultist organized activities against any kind of oppression real, intimidation and use of violent extortion, stealing, armed robbery, arson sexual abuse, rape, examination malpractice, maiming, manslaughter and murder, the occurrence are the university of Ile-Ife, Benin, Ekpoma, Ibadan etc. This is what has led to the public speaking against the societal evil calling to its total eradication.

1.2 Statement of the Problem: The fundamental problems of cultism are the uncertain and unsafe atmosphere in our campuses even to the activities of members of secret cult these manner of operation is both sinister and Bizerte living behind them a trial of what destruction most distressing of the problems is the state of killing in our campuses in recent times, many lives have been terminated, permanently in spite of measures put in place by the various arms of government and school authorities aimed at combating the ugly trend of cultism, the phenomenon on our campuses has refused to be eradicated. The detail of the wide spread of violent activities called cult group had been cured on national television and radio as well It has become a major problem for the Law Enforcement Agencies in both small and bigger cities in Nigeria, basically in this University (EKSU) cult activities had led to wanton destruction of lives and properties. Innocent students were attacked by a cult group beating and taking their valuables.

Therefore, these horrible cult activities have contributed in no small measure to the suspension of many students from school and also to the incessant closure of schools. In a nut shell, cultism has become a matter of concern not only to parents and lectures but also to government in general. It is not gain saying that cultism is satanic all over the world youths are the easy prey to these satanic groups. The future of our nation (Nigeria) lies in the hands of today youth. If cultism is playing our citadels of learning (where the mind and character of youths are being shaped for good) then the very foundation of our national development is shaking.

1.3 Major objective of the study are:

- i. To find out the causes of social vices among University undergraduate in Ekiti State University (EKSU), Ado-Ekiti.
- ii. To ascertain the reasons why University undergraduates are been engaged in cultism.
- iii. To find out the consequences of cultism among University undergraduate.
- iv. To identify some of the measures on how to curb cultism among University undergraduates.

2. RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Why Undergraduates Engage in Cultism

Despite the fact that all manners of evil (such as examination malpractice, rape, robbery, arson, maiming, murder, killing, intimidation of fellow undergraduates and lectures for good grades, love (girlfriend), clashes of rival cult group among others) has become the activities of cultism, some student of tertiary institutions still find it fashionable to engage in it for different reasons. According to Ajayi and Ayodele (2002), cited the following reasons why undergraduate engage in cultism, namely: search for responsibility, search for satisfaction of one's aspirations and needs, search for security and search for social identity etc [9]. These reasons can be explained below.

The Need to Feel High: According to Owoeye (2007), Universities undergraduates in Nigeria, the way they feel "to feel happier or better, to avoid pains stress or frustration" [10]. They want to forget or to remember, to be accepted or be sociable sometimes to escape from burden or just to satisfy curiosity. However, in the long run, people who engage in cult in the hope of solving one problem or the other run the risk of getting solution which worsens already worse situation.

Search for Responsibility: Some undergraduates join cults group in order to perform certain services for the members. For example, some undergraduates may engage in cultism in order to fight for perceived injustice in their campuses against their members.

The Mass Media: Evidence abounds that children, youths and undergraduates who watch a lot of television programs learn to rely on stereotypes of the various groups presented by the media [10,11]. These children then transfer what they have learned from television to real life situations. This, if the stereotype was presented and always watched by a child favours cult activities taking the child will imbibe the culture of rapping, harassment, violence etc.

Search for Satisfaction of One's Aspirations and Needs: Some students also engage in cults group in order to satisfy their desires, aspirations and needs. Example of this is that a student may belong to a cult group which part of her objective is to ensure the success of her members in academic examinations.

Social Structural Influence: The particular factor is associated with relentless harshness of life. In this case, life itself is one big hell of hand ball to kick. Academic frustration, rivalry, poverty, family problem, inherent physical deformities, widening gap between the rich and the poor make life one long stretch of mental future.

Search for Security: Many undergraduates of tertiary institutions, especially the female undergraduates join cult groups in order to protect themselves while some male undergraduates join to secure their girlfriends.

Search for Social Identity: There are also undergraduates who join cult group for popularity. They want to make name and to be regarded as powerful people. For these undergraduates, to belong to a cult group is a way of achieving prestige and greatness. They believe that they could influence decisions on campus and that they could as well dictate the pace during the undergraduates union and students representative elections.

Peer Group Influence: Peer group seem to extent almost equal importance by the time children are well grown up into adolescence. Thus, the peer group provides the developing child with a broad range of behaviours and cultural and sub-cultural values meanwhile a peer group is a group composed of individual who are equals [11-12].

Personality Factors: It appears that personality factor is another main factor responsible for the canker worm on Nigeria society. In this aspect, it is connected with distinctive personality traits associated with school cult.

Parental influence and home background: Finally, undergraduates engage in cultism because of influenced by parental and home background. Parents who are members of secret cult may not see anything wrong in their children's involvement in cultism. Undergraduates who have emotional sickness who are possessed by the demon may join cult groups to unleash terror on the society that has caused emotional distress and can grow up to become criminals because of the evil spirit in them. Some undergraduates also become cultist because their friends are members. Some undergraduates join cult because certain lecturers and administration are members of secret cults. Unconducive learning facilities, environment and inadequate welfare programs for undergraduates can also encourage students to engage in cultism and inadequate religious and moral instructions and education can lure undergraduates to embracing cult groups and cult activities.

2.2 The Consequences of Cultism on the Undergraduates

The attendant consequences of cultism on the learning process cannot be exhausted as both intra and inter-cult clashes negatively affect the undergraduates in a very high proportion. These are the following consequences:

- ❖ It sometimes leads to incarceration, rustication or expulsion of both innocent and undergraduates members or they may spend more than the required number of years for graduation [12, 13].
- ❖ Cult activities (which include killing, maiming, raping of fellow undergraduates and even lecturers) may disrupt the academic calendar of the nation institutions of learning. The peace on campus is adversely affected whenever there is cult invasion, this may result in suspension of academic activities for some time [12, 13].
- ❖ This singular activities can affects the years of graduation of undergraduates and may discourage undergraduates towards continue studying in the university concern. A lot of lives and properties have been destroyed through cult violence [14].
- ❖ Young undergraduates who are supposed to be leaders in future have fallen victims of trigger-happy cultists [15].
- ❖ Another effect of cultism is that, before and during examinations, undergraduates are always organizing night vigil and prayer for a successful end of exams and or semester. They always sleep with one eye closed. And because of (this) 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 cultists' rampage. Some members of cult groups are caused bodily harm that may result to physical injuries and or death especially during their initiation ceremonies. Closely related to this

is the fact that some of them risk health problems because of harmful drugs such as marijuana, cocaine among others they take.

Cult group often subvert (or undermine) the genuine undergraduates' unionism and destabilize university administrations, which do not condone their nefarious activities.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Source of Data Collection: Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were used for this study. The secondary data for this research were sourced from relevant offices, textbooks, journals, newspapers, conference papers, handbooks, bulletins, the Internet and libraries while questionnaire and in-debt interview guide was used as primary source.

3.2 Research Design: The survey design was adopted in this study. According to Bolton (1992), a survey design is used to access and predict the views, reactions or standings of a large number of people on a limited topic like social vices and the effect of cultism activities among Undergraduates of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.. Under survey design, the researcher developed a list of questions and presented them in a standard way to each participant typically using either the interview or questionnaire.

3.3 Study Area: The area of study is Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti. The University is located in the city of Ado-Ekiti, the capital of Ekiti State, Nigeria.

3.4 Population of the Study: The population of the study is made up of the undergraduates of Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti. The population of the undergraduate is more than 10,000.

3.5 Sample Size: A total number of 150 respondents were used for this study and it was made up of the undergraduates of Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti.

3.6 Sample Technique: A simple random sampling procedure was adopted in choosing the population of the study as it involves a fairly large community of Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti which is the area under the research study, hence indicates a heterogeneous population.

3.7 Instruments of Data Collection: Questionnaire and in-debt interview guide was used for data collection. The questionnaire contains two sections. The section "A" of the questionnaire contains items which were designed to give personal information about the respondent. The section "B" of the questionnaire have items on how effect of cultism activities among undergraduates of Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti.

3.8 Method of Analysis: The data from the respondents were analyzed using descriptive, percentage, frequency tables and statistical packages.

4. RESULTS

A comprehensive questionnaire was prepared and administered to 150 undergraduates of Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti. The researcher distributed a total number of 150 questionnaires and 100 out of 150 questionnaires were returned. Therefore, it was based on analysis of 100 that were returned. The remaining 50 questionnaires were wrongly filled and mutilated and therefore rejected.

Table 1: Shows that the distribution and return of the questionnaire administered to undergraduates.

Respondent	Distribution	Returned	Not Returned
Undergraduate	150	100	50
Total	150	100	50

The above table shows that out of 150 questionnaires distributed to the undergraduates of Ekiti State University of Ado-Ekiti, 100 was filled and returned and 50 were not returned.

Table 2: The table presents the distribution of gender, family situation and age group of studied population.

The Sex Distribution of the Respondents		
Sex	Frequency	%
Male	60	60
Female	40	40
Total	100	100
Marital status of the respondents		
Options	Frequency	%
Married	25	25
Single	75	75
Total	100	100
Age Distribution of Respondents		
Age	Frequency	%
15 – 25	40	40
26 – 35	30	30
36 – 45	15	15
46 – 55	10	10
56 – Above	5	5
Total	100	100

The Marital Status table shows that 25 (25%) of the respondents were married, 75 (75%) of the respondents were single. The above shows the age distribution of respondents out of 100 respondents, 40 were within the ages of 15 – 25 years, 30 were within the ages of 26 – 35 years, 15 between the ages of 36 – 45 years, 10 between the ages of 46 – 55 years and 5 between the ages of 56 and above. The table above shows that sex distribution of the respondents. The highest percentage 60 (60%) was recorded for the male respondents and the lowest percentage 40 (40%) was recorded for the female respondents. This means that more female respondents were selected for the sample

Table 3: The table presents the sociodemographic characteristic of studied population.

Residence		
Residence	No of Respondents	%
Hostel	60	60
Off-Campus	40	40
Total	100	100
Religions		
Religions	No of Respondents	%
Christianity	60	60
Islam	25	25
African Traditional Religion	5	5
Others	10	10
Total	100	100
Level of education		
Level of Education	No of Respondents	%
Pre-degree	15	15
Diploma	30	30
Degree	45	45
Others	10	10
Total	100	100
Faculties		
Faculties	No of Respondents	%
Agriculture and Engineering Sciences	10	10
Medicine	5	5
Art/Humanities and Law	25	25
Social Sciences	15	15
Education	20	20
Management	25	25
Total	100	100

The above table shows the distribution of respondents' level of education. It was deduced from the above table that the highest percentage, 45 (45%) were respondents undergoing the Degree program and 30 (30%) were those undergoing Diploma program and 15 (15%) were those undergoing the pre-degree program and others 10%. From those 25 (25%) of the respondents were from the faculty of management science and another 25 (25%) from the faculty of Arts/Humanities, Law, and 5(5%) from the medical college and 15 (15%) from the faculty of social sciences, 10 (10%) from the faculty of Agric, Engineering, Sciences and 20 (20%) from the faculty of education. The information on table 3 shows the frequency distribution of respondents according to their religious groups. The data indicates that the highest percentage 60 (60%) are Christians, 25 (25%) were Muslims, 5 (5%) are African traditional Religion while the last

category 10 (10%) belong to none of the religion. The Residence table 8 shows that 60(60%) of respondents reside in hostel while 40(40%) were reside in off-campus.

4.2 Section B – Substantive Issues of the Research

Question 1: Which of the greatest social vice that affect University undergraduates?

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents to which greatest social vice affect Undergraduate

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Rapping	10	10
Cultism	40	40
Examination malpractice	30	30
Truancy	15	15
Drug abuse	5	5
Total	100	100

The table above shows the greatest social vice that affect University undergraduates. The table shows that a greater percentage, 40 (40%) of respondents agree that Cultism is the mostly affected by University undergraduates, while 30 (30%) Examination malpractice, Truancy 15 (15%), Rapping 10 (10%) and the lowest percentage, 5 (5%) agree that drug abuse is the social vice affected by undergraduates.

Question 2: Why are undergraduates engaged in cultism?

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents according to their knowledge of why are undergraduates engaged in cultism.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
To feel high	50	50
To be protected and secured	35	35
Don't know	15	15
Total	100	100

In the table above shows the greater percentage of respondents 50 (50%) indicated that students engage in cultism to get high, 35 (35%) indicated that they engage in cultism to be protected and secured and the lowest percentage 15 (15%) indicated that they don't know why students engage in cultism.

Question 3: Is cultism associated with undergraduates only?

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents that is only undergraduate participating in cultism

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	60	60
No	30	30
Don't know	10	10
Total	100	100

The above table shows that 60 (60%) percent of the respondents indicated that cultism is only associated with undergraduates while 30 (30%) agreed that it is not only associated with undergraduates while the lowest percentage 10 (10%) indicated that they don't know.

Question 4: What are the major factors/reasons why students engaging in cultism?

Table 7: The table presents the distribution of reasons why undergraduates engage in cultism

Response	Frequency	Percentage
For leisure	25	25
To gain power	15	15
Academic pestering	10	10
To Cause fear/terror	5	5
All of the above	45	45
Total	100	100

The above table answers the question on the major reasons why students engage in cultism. The result indicated that 45 (45%) of the respondents believed that it is due to Academic pestering for leisure, to gain power and to perform well while 25 (25%) believed that its due to leisure, 15 (15%) indicated that to gain power, 10 (10%) indicated that academic problem while 5 (5%) believed that it's to enable them to cause fear in academic environment.

Question 5: Do you think that they meet in public or in open places?

Table 8: The table presents the distribution on where they hold meeting.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Open places	25	25
Secrete places	65	65
Don't know	10	10
Total	100	100

The above table shows the responses on whether the cult groups hold meetings in open or in secrete places of the campus or off-campus. 65 (65%) indicated that they hold meeting in secrete places both in the campus and off campus, 25 (25%) indicated that they hold meeting in campus only while 10 (10%) indicated that they don't know where they hold meeting.

Question 6: What do you think are the consequences of cultism among undergraduates?

Table 9: The table presents the distribution of the consequences of cultism among undergraduates

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Beneficial	10	10
Damaging	90	90
Total	100	100

The table above shows the responses on the consequences of cultism among undergraduates, 90 (90%) indicated that the consequence is damaging while 10 (10%) of respondents indicated that the consequence is beneficial.

Question 7: Which faculty that has prevalence of cultism among undergraduates?

Table 10: The table presents the distribution on whether five or four years a course has prevalence of cultism among undergraduates with reasons.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
College of Medicine, Law, Sciences, Agric and Engineering with reason: They have no leisure time	40	40
Management, Social Sciences, Education and Art/Humanities with reason: They have leisure.	60	60
Total	100	100

The above table shows distribution of respondents on which faculty that has prevalence of cultism among undergraduates; Management, Social Sciences, Education and Art/Humanities, 60 (60%) indicated with reason why four years a course has prevalence of cultism among undergraduates while 40 (40%) of respondents indicated "reason" that College of Medicine, Law, Sciences, Agric and Engineering (five years a course) has prevalence of cultism among undergraduate because they are always busy with practical and research.

Question 8: Do you think that cultism among undergraduates is associated with cultism of their parents.

Table 11: The table presents the distribution on whether cultism among undergraduates is associated with that of their parents.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	35	35
No	50	50
Don't know	15	15
Total	100	100

The above table shows the distribution of respondents on whether cultism among undergraduates is associated with cultism of their parent, 50 (50%) indicated "No", 35 (35%) indicated "Yes" while 15 (15%) indicated don't know.

Question 9: What are the ways in which cultism could be reduced among undergraduates in EKSU and Nigeria as a whole?

Table 12: The table presents the distribution on ways in which cultism could be reduced.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Counseling	50	50
Imprisonment of offenders	15	15
Expulsion	30	30
All of the above	5	5
Total	100	100

The above table shows the response on the ways in which cultism could be reduced among undergraduates, 5 (5%) indicated that it could be reduced by all of the above, 30 (30%) indicated that it could be reduced by expulsion, that is expelling the students involve; 15 (15%) indicated that it can be reduced by imprisonment of the offender while 50 (50%) indicated that Counseling should be used in reducing cultism among undergraduates in EKSU and Nigeria as a whole.

4.3 Test OF Hypothesis

The study was guided by the following hypothesis.

Test of Hypothesis One: The incidence of cultism activities among undergraduates in EKSU is likely to be higher than other social vices.

Table 1: Showing the observed and expected distribution for testing the above hypothesis

No	Observed	Expected
Yes	138	97.0
No	56	97.0
Total	194	

DF = 1, $P < 0.05$, $X^2 = 34.660$, Significant level = 0.0001

The hypothesis was tested with Chi Square (X^2) statistics. The obtained Chi Square value is 34.660 and was tested at $P < 0.05$ level of significance. Since $P < 0.05$, then the result is significant, we then reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis, which stated that the effects of cultism activities among undergraduates in EKSU is likely to be higher than other social vices in the institution.

Test of Hypothesis Two

There is a positive relationship between peer group influence and cultism among undergraduate in EKSU.

Table 2: The table shows the observed and expected distribution for testing the above hypothesis.

No	Observed	Expected
Yes	123	97.0
No	71	97.0
Total	194	

DF = 1, $P < 0.05$, $X^2 = 13.938$, Significant level = 0.0001

The hypothesis was tested with Chi Square (X^2) statistics. The obtained Chi Square value is 13.938 and was tested at $P < 0.5$ level of significance. Since $P < 0.5$, then the result is significant, we the reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis, which state that there is a positive relationship between peer group influence and cultism among undergraduate students in EKSU.

Test of Hypothesis Three: Undergraduates who engage in cultism are likely to end up to hired assassin and robbery.

Table 3: Showing the observed and expected for testing the above hypothesis.

No	Observed	Expected
Yes	138	97.0
No	56	97.0
Total	194	

DF = 1, $P < 0.05$, $X^2 = 34.660$, Significant level = 0.0001

The hypothesis was tested with Chi Square (X^2) statistics. The obtained Chi Square value is 34.660 and was tested at $P < 0.05$ level of significance. Since $P < 0.05$, then the result is significant, we then reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis which stated that undergraduates who engage in cultism are likely to end up to hired assassin and robberies.

5. DISCUSSION

This research is the result of unsubstantiated statements and generally held beliefs concerning the Social Vices and the Effect of Cultism Activities among University Undergraduates of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti which is held by various Faculties and Departments in the school such believes and opinions include those of Pre-degree, Diploma, and Degree. etc. which most times, describe undergraduates as heavily and almost solely dependent on cultism especially these days. This study was therefore embarked upon so as to examine empirically these barbed and controversial issues of cultism activities among University Undergraduates. Cultism constitutes one of the major social vices in Nigerian Universities because of the harmful consequences on undergraduates and also psychologically, physically, socially, educationally etc. Onekpe (2007) assertion that ignorance among Nigerian undergraduate has been a thing of concern to many citizens [16]. The problem appears to be endemic in Nigeria Universities to the extent that scholars, professionals, social workers, academicians, psychologists, sociologist have been trying to find solutions to the problem. This finding also agreed with that of Chukwuemeka and Aghara (2010) that incidence of marginalization, denial of social right, environmental degradation and economic devastation activities by the Government of Nigeria had triggered off the rate undergraduates in Nigeria University engage in all sorts of social vices like cultism [17]. Moreover, it is observed that justice is administered without fear or favour. No matter whose ward is involved, the wrath of law is applied as indicated in Table 9, and the seriousness of vices committed determined penalties meted out. This is largely appreciated and commendable because these are very rear not only in the management of public sector education, but other institutions in Nigeria

This research is the outcome of unsubstantiated statements and generally held beliefs concerning the issue or incidence of cultism among undergraduates in EKSU which is held by various people, institutions and organization in the society such believes and opinions include those of religion and political leaders, parents, the mass and print media etc which most times, portray undergraduates as heavily and almost solely dependent on cultism especially these days. This scenario also agreed with the work of Elegbeleye (2005) [18]. In the same vein, Ofem and Ajayi (2008) agreed with the findings of research question four that cultism of undergraduates is associated with lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment and lack of quality education at primary level [19]. This indicates that the reasons why undergraduate engage in cultism are multifaceted in nature. It therefore means that curbing cultism in Nigeria University might also take multidimensional approach. In line with the finding of this study and the discussion, the financial cost of these disciplinary actions on parents is grievous, if such a student is expelled after two or three or five years in university, it means, such a parent has lost a substantial amount in cash. Its psychological trauma, mostly to parents who borrowed money to pay school fees could lead to high blood pressure, hypertension and sudden death. The sociological implication is that such a child may lose proper parenting that is needed at that point in life. Psychologically, such a student will have to grapple with self-enacted stigma that trails a university drop-out in Nigerian society. In term of time, if a student is rusticated after four years on campus, it means starting his or her higher education afresh. Four years lost may prevent a student from catching up with his and her mates in life. In order not to inflict permanent stigma on such students, disciplinary actions could be complement with counseling as presented in Table 12. These measures could enable them to be transformed and turn them to a new life. Therefore, such programme could go a long way in destroying and reconditioning the dysfunctional habit in the lives of affected students.

5.2 Limitations of the Study

One problem encountered by the researchers concerns the willingness of students to participate in the study. Getting more participants to join the study was somehow difficult. This was attributable to a number of factors which include: fear of cult member to attack, ignorance of the real essence of researcher; proximity of school examination which gave them no room for other activities due to limited time to study.

6. CONCLUSION

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. However to curb this menace, government and non-governmental agencies and the media 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, workshops, symposium, posters, handbills and public lectures. Parent should desist from being members of secret cults and also prevent their children from joining bad group. Religious and moral instructions and education should be re-introduced in all spheres of lives and the decadent society should be spiritually reawakened by joint effort of parents, religious organizations, and government.

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Annex:

QUESTIONNAIRE

TOPIC: SOCIAL VICES AND THE EFFECT OF CULTISM ACTIVITIES AMONG UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATES OF EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI, NIGERIA.

Instructions: Please, be frank and honest in your responses. Your answers will be used for academic purposes only and shall be treated with absolute confidentiality.

SECTION A

PERSONAL DATA

PLEASE TICK [] WHERE APPLICABLE

- (1) Marital Status: Single [] Married []
- (2) Age: (a) 15 – 25 [] (b) 26 – 35 [] (c) 36 – 45 [] (d) 46 – 55 [] (e) 56 – Above []
- (3) Sex: (a) Male [] (b) Female []
- (4) Level of Education: (a) Pre-degree [] (b) Diploma [] (c) Degree [] (d) Others (specify)
- (5) Faculty: (a) Social Science [] (b) College Medicine [] (c) Education [] (d) Management [] (e) Arts/Humanities, Law [] (f) Agric, Engineering, Sciences []
- (6) Religion: (a) Christianity [] (b) Islam [] (c) African Traditional Religion [] (d) Others (specify)
- (7) Resident: (a) Hostel [] (b) Off campus []

SECTION B

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE RESEARCH

- (8) Which of the greatest social vice that affect University undergraduates?
 - (a) Cultism [] (b) Rapping [] (c) Examination malpractice [] (d) Truancy [] (e) Drug abuse []
- (9) Why are undergraduates engaged in Cultism?
 - (a) To get high [] (b) to be protected and secured [] (c) Don't know []
- (10) Is cultism associated with undergraduate only?
 - (a) Yes [] (b) No [] (c) Don't know []
- (11) What are the major factors or reasons why students engage in cultism?
 - (a) Academic problem [] (b) for Leisure [] (c) To gain power [] (d) To cause fear [] (e) All of the above []
- (12) Do you think they meet in public or the open places?
 - (a) Yes [] (b) No [] (c) Don't know []
- (13) What do you think are the consequences of cultism among undergraduates?
 - (a) Beneficial [] (b) Damaging []
- (14) Do you think that they associate with other students?
 - (a) Yes [] (b) No []
- (15) Which faculty that has prevalence of cultism among undergraduates?
 - (a) College of Medicine, Law, Sciences, Agric and Engineering [], Reasons: (i) They have leisure time [] (ii) No leisure time [] (b) Management, Social Sciences, Education and Art/Humanities [], (i) Reasons: They have leisure time [] (ii) No leisure time []
- (16) Do you think that cultism among undergraduates is associated with cultism of their parents?
 - (a) Yes [] (b) No [] (c) Don't know []
- (17) What are the ways in which cultism could be reduced among University undergraduates in EKSU and Nigeria as a whole?
 - (a) Counseling [] (b) Imprisonment of offenders [] (c) Expulsion [] (d) All of the above []