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Implications of Indecent Dressing and Students' Academic Performance in Oyo State Tertiary Institutions

OYEKOLA, ADEBIMPE ADESOLA

BADMUS, BABATUNDE OJO

[1]*Senior Lecturer, Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo*
[2]*Lecturer III, Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo*
Corresponding Author: 1

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ABSTRACT: Education involves the development of learners' total personality and positive changes in their behavioural patterns. Higher education is supposed to serve as the center for training of youths who are meant to be leaders of tomorrow. Howbeit, the proliferation of indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions has become a subject of argument among stakeholders in education. This study therefore examined the implications of indecent dressing and students' academic performance in Oyo State. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. A purposive sampling was used to select 100 students from four higher institutions in Oyo State. Percentage and frequency counts were used to analyze data. The result showed that a large percentage of students dress indecently on campus. Factors for the immodest dressing were examined, causes for the pattern of dressing were also identified, and the influence of these dress patterns on academic performance were examined. It was recommended, among others, that tertiary institutions should adopt dress codes for their students.

KEYWORDS: Indecent dressing, students, immodest dressing, dress code, academic performance.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is concerned with an all-round development of an individual. Education develops the totality of an individual, that is, the personality and positive changes in the pattern of behaviour. This elevated and modest height cannot be achieved without an academic environment that is favorable for effective teaching and learning. For such a condition to be realized, discipline is very crucial in such an academic environment. Discipline is a crucial factor in attaining a conducive atmosphere on the part of the students. Thus, the attitudes and values of students is dependent on discipline in the university, as well as the school environment. Discipline in all aspects of the student, particularly in the area of dressing.

In the African society, it is expected that an individual puts on a modest and good dressing appropriate for each occasion. For example, there are particular dresses for church, sports, parties, house chores, and for lectures. The way you are dressed must be in conformity with the environmental acceptable values [5]. There is a saying that"you are addressed by the way you dressed".

Research has shown [6] that a student's conduct and performance are related to his or her clothing. A student's should not be a distraction or disruption to the learning process and the learning environment. However, indecent appearance has been on the increase among students in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Hardly could you find any institution in Nigeria that has not been faced with this problem. The female students especially find it difficult to sit down properly. The females prefer to dress seductively to the class. They struggle to put on tight fitting tops and jeans. The so called 'ladies' with much efforts, climb motor cycles (okadas). To pick up anything on the floor becomes a great task. The female students put on transparent wears, exposing the parts of the body that are supposed to be hidden from the public. The male students are left out of this indecency. They carelessly put on slippers tagged bathroom or beach slippers. Sleeveless tops, sagging of trousers, deliberately cut out jeans have become the order of the day. When they are walking, they deliberately drag their legs as if they deaf or hard of hearing, not to be able to hear the noisy sound. Severally, the students put on socks with slippers, as well as sandals. Most of the male students purposely hold on to their private parts as if it will drop at any moment.

These immodest dressing had at one time or the other made such students to become victims of gang rape, ritual killings, drop outs, prostitution, and all other social vices. Some of them have been taken as social miscreants, hooligans and end up joining cult groups. These dress patterns are mostly anti- African, and are invented [4] .These types of dressing show them as not being responsible.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It is a common fact that indecent dressing has become a plague in Nigerian institutions. Overtime, it has been discovered that the focal cause of various social assaults and sexual harassment experienced in the society. Ladies in Nigeria derive pleasure in wearing mini and very short skirts. They enjoy putting on transparent dresses, half sleeve dresses, skimpy tops and all the likes. Males and females alike tint their hair with absurd colours. Males who tint their hairs, pierce their noses are most times taken as criminals. The females end up being raped, molested and used for ritual s.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study examined the influence of indecent dressing on students' academic performance in tertiary institutions in Oyo. The specific purposes of the study are to:

i. determine the perception of students on the prevalence modes of indecent dressing.
ii. ascertain the factors influencing mode of dressing among students of tertiary institutions
iii. determine the reasons for indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions
iv. To what level has indecent dressing influence academic performance of students of tertiary institutions
v. What are the possible ways of curbing indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the prevalent modes of indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions
2. What are the factors influencing mode of dressing among students of tertiary institutions
3. What are the reasons for indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions
4. To what level has indent dressing influence academic performance of students of tertiary institutions
5. What are the possible ways of curbing indecent dressing among students of tertiary institutions

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopted the descriptive research design to assess the influence of indecent dressing among higher education students in Oyo metropolis. This design is suitable as a purposive process of gathering, analyzing, classifying, and tabulating data about prevailing conditions, practices, processes, trends, and cause-effect relationships and then making adequate and accurate interpretation about such data with or without or sometimes minimal aid of statistical methods. Also, this method determines prevailing conditions of facts in a group under study that gives either qualitative or quantitative, or both, descriptions of the general characteristics of the group as results. And as such this study examines the prevailing indecent dressing among tertiary education students in Oyo.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population for the study involved all the students in tertiary institutions in Oyo State. The population sample of 100 students were purposively chosen based on the phenomenon of study, which is common to all the population in the study, that is, indecent dressing. 50 students were chosen as sample from Ekiti State University (Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo Campus) and Emmanuel Alayande College of Education. 50 students were also sampled from University of Ibadan (Affiliation of Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo Campus) and Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The data collected for the study is through a primary source, which is basically the use of questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into six sections. Section A captured the demographic data of the respondents, which include age, gender, level, and religion. Section B-E included the prevalence of indecent dressing, factors influencing the mode of dressing, reasons for dressing indecently, indecent dressing and academic performance, and possible ways of curbing indecent dressing.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected from the questionnaire was arranged in a tabular form. The data were analyzed with the use of frequency counts and percentages. The data collected were used to answer the research questions.

PREVALENT MODES OF INDECENT DRESSING

Indecent dressing can be given a better perspective based on the prevailing modes of dressing in relation to the societal acceptance in which it is being perpetrated. It is quite clear that the meaning and understanding of indecent dressing is contingent on societal beliefs. [4] Any way of dressing that does not conform with the acceptable moral standard of decent dressing is referred to as indecent dressing. [4] reiterate that this form of dressing is provocative, improper, and morally unacceptable. [13] Indecent dressing is the wearing of clothes that are not appropriate for a particular occasion or a place. [1] It is a dressing that tends to offend or surprise people. Thus, in relation to culture of the African people, indecent dressing are anti-African and invented [7]. In the same vein, [8] indecent dressing is the deliberate exposure of one's body to the public. The implication of this is that seductively, such parts meant for the bedroom, bathroom, or for the partner only have become objects of public glare. Such parts include the buttocks, thighs, breasts, and other parts that are meant to be covered. [2] Such appearance could be distractive or offensive inscriptions on shirts, slogans or pictures, non-natural coloured hair and attachments, baggy trousers, t-shirts that shows sex, mini-skirts, sagging, very tight dresses and trousers, tattoos, noisy shoe heels, slippers worn with socks or bathroom slippers, and obscene wears. For the purpose of this study, the opinion of respondents on the prevalent modes of indecent dressing are sampled below.

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TABLE 1: PREVALENT MODES OF INDECENT DRESSING

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Indecent dressing have become a way of life in the tertiary institutions.	49	49.0	40	40.0	3	3.0	8	8.0
2.	Indecent dressing is prevalent among male and female students.	48	48.0	46	46.0	2	2.0	4	4.0
3.	Pulling of trousers to the buttocks (sagging) is part of the male students' dressing.	27	27.0	45	45.0	9	9.0	19	19.0
4.	Exposure of breasts, chest, and some other private parts are examples of indecent dressing.	49	49.0	36	36.0	10	0.0	5	5.0
5.	Seductive dresses such as off-shoulder, bumper shorts, mini-skirts are indecent dresses.	51	51.0	37	37.0	8	8.0	4	4.0
6.	Inviting and provocative inscriptions (such as 'love me', 'do it') on shirts and female tops are forms of indecent dressing.	30	30.0	34	34.0	17	17.0	19	19.0

FACTORS INFLUENCING MODE OF INDECENT DRESSING

The rise of indecent dressing in various campuses in Oyo town has varied factors responsible for the upsurge. One of the factor is the age-group of the students, as most of them are gradually leaving the stage of adolescence. Their heart and reasoning are fragile and tender. They can be easily manipulated. [13] One of the factors responsible for indecent wears is the negative effects of western civilization. Overexposure to foreign culture through all channels has grossly affected students' mode of dressing. This assertion is [2] that such youths with European or western mentality of offensive dressing are referred to as 'delude hybrids'. Likewise, [12] peer group exert a strong influence on dressing. A peer group with no academic focus, will in no wise put in efforts at developing negative attitudes towards academics and dressing. [2] The dressing pattern of any student depends on the value orientation obtained from the home. The family background of such a child plays a major role in determining the dressing pattern. Responses of the factors militating against decent dressing have been tabulated in table 2 below:

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TABLE 2: FACTORS INFLUENCING MODE OF INDECENT DRESSING

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
7.	Students prefer the western mode of dressing.	50	50.0	37	37.0	7	7.0	6	6.0
8.	Students embrace trending or latest fashion.	57	57.0	34	34.0	3	3.0	6	6.0
9.	Family background has limited influence on students' mode of dressing.	33	33.0	32	32.0	18	18.0	17	17.0
10.	Single parents are negative models to their children in terms of dressing and moral values.	36	36.0	30	30.0	14	14.0	20	20.0
11.	The movie industry especially celebrities being imitated are the cause of indecent dressing.	40	40.0	46	46.0	5	5.0	9	9.0
12.	Role models and music artistes are negative influence on students dressing.	36	36.0	38	38.0	16	16.0	10	10.0
13.	Peer groups also serve as negative influence on students' dressing.	36	36.0	44	44.0	9	9.0	11	11.0
14.	The social media has a significant influence on students' mode of dressing.	36	36.0	48	48.0	8	8.0	8	8.0

REASONS FOR DRESSING INDECENTLY AMONG TERTIARY EDUCATION STUDENTS

Pattern of indecent dressing among students in the tertiary education could be given reasons as being tenable to the students themselves. [2] Some female students specifically dress indecently so as to look sexy, sensuous, and tantalizing to the opposite sex. They have forgotten their primary goal of being in the higher institution. They lose focus, and from there they become drop-outs and vagabonds. Worthy of note is the fact that the amorous indecent dressers are sexually seductive, but usually avoid real intimacy. [9] They simply play games by cunningly seducing their preys for economic purposes. Also, moral decadence is one of the reasons for indecent dressing. The decadence in the moral values in the country has greater influence on the youths. And as such, the decadence has degenerated into what the whole world, especially Nigeria is experiencing now. Table 3 itemizes the responses reasons for the indecent pattern of dressing.

TABLE 3: REASONS FOR DRESSING INDECENTLY AMONG TERTIARY EDUCATION STUDENTS

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
15.	Dresses that expose sensitive parts of the body make the students confident and daunting.	27	27.0	34	34.0	24	24.0	15	15.0
16.	Wearing of indecent dresses attract peculiar attention to such students.	25	25.0	56	56.0	6	6.0	13	13.0
17.	A group, sect or cult specifically demand for such provocative dresses.	46	46.0	39	39.0	9	9.0	6	6.0
18.	A group, sect, cult are identified with such intimidating dresses.	41	41.0	42	42.0	9	9.0	8	8.0
19.	Intimidating and provocative dresses outrightly attract the attention of both academic members of staff.	46	46.0	34	34.0	11	11.0	9	9.0

INFLUENCE OF INDECENT DRESSING ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Students that failed to dress decently are usually casualties of academic failure because they have very little time for studies. [12] Most students that are concerned with how to dress seductively and appear in the latest provocative dress battle with carry over courses, which result in staying longer than the actual set for graduation. Such students end up outliving their studentship with very low grades. Some of them end up being confrontational, and frustrated, thereby becoming armed robbers, prostitutes, drug addicts or traffickers, carriers of HIV/AIDS. The basic influence of indecent dressing on academic performance of students are as follows:

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TABLE 4: INFLUENCE OF INDECENT DRESSING ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
20.	Indecent dressing leads to poor academic performance	33	33.0	23	23.0	18	18.0	26	26.0
21.	Inappropriate dresses endanger students' concentration in class.	38	38.0	41	41.0	11	11.0	10	10.0
22.	Indecent dressing is a form of seduction in class.	41	41.0	42	42.0	11	11.0	6	6.0
23.	Intimidating wears can lead to victimization of such students.	47	47.0	32	32.0	10	10.0	11	11.0
24.	Indecent dresses lead to greater percentage of school drop outs.	30	30.0	29	29.0	19	19.0	22	22.0
25.	Provocative dresses give room for undue advantage (in terms of additional marks).	31	31.0	34	34.0	18	18.0	17	17.0
26.	Examination leakages are as a result of females' indecent dressing.	27	27.0	31	31.0	20	20.0	22	22.0

WAYS OF CURBING INDECENT DRESSING

Research have shown that the foremost way of curbing indecent dressing is to establish a dress code or act in the various institutions [11; 3; 5; 2]. Recommendations aimed at reducing the offensive modes of indecent dressing of students are tabulated below:

TABLE 5: WAYS OF CURBING INDECENT DRESSING

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
27.	Dress code/act should be established.	56.0	56.0	30	30.0	8	8.0	6	6.0
28.	Lessons on uprightness, chastity, and virtue should be taught.	45	45.0	42	42.0	5	5.0	8	8.0
29.	Award or due recognition should be given to appropriately dressed students at the end of each session.	47	47.0	41	41.0	5	5.0	7	7.0
30.	Guidance and counselling programmes on implications on indecent dressing.	58	58.0	33	33.0	5	5.0	4	4.0
31.	Rules, regulations and sanctions should be formulated to guide the students in the students' handbook.	45	45.0	42	42.0	4	4.0	9	9.0
32.	Dress code or uniform should be put in place	45	45.0	36	36.0	7	7.0	12	12.0
33.	Public punishment should be enforced	36	36.0	40	40.0	12	12.0	12	12.0
34.	Involvement of stakeholders in harmonizing moderate and decent dressing patterns in Nigeria institutions	46	46.0	44	44.0	6	6.0	4	4.0

CONCLUSION

The pace at which indecent dressing has permeated the entire moral fibre of students in Nigerian tertiary institutions is disquieting, improper, and unacceptable. Most students now have ulterior motives for dressing inappropriately to their institutions. Tattoos are being seen on almost all so called 'students'. The female students use their precious time wearing rags all in the name of trendy wears. It is therefore expedient for all the stakeholders of education in Nigeria to be aggressive in advancing measures to curb indecent dressing on campuses. This is necessary for campus cleansing and Oyo institutions will not become a jungle, but an educational institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations at curbing indecent dressing among students in tertiary institutions are as follows:

1. Dress code, act or policy, as a matter of urgency should be adopted for students.
2. Counselling sessions, with the use of cognitive restructuring techniques should be adopted to help students dressing indecently rediscover their self-worth and potentials. Such students should also be re-orientated towards positive self-esteem.
3. Government should enact laws that regulate dressing at both secondary and tertiary education.
4. Parents should assist their children by checking sifting their wears before they leave their homes.

5. Civil groups should organize enlightenment and orientation programmes for students.

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