

CULTISM AND THE MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL ZONE OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated cultism and the management of federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study and two hypotheses were tested. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consisted of 10,249 academic and administrative staff in seven federal universities in the area. A sample of 1,025 (485 academic and 540 administrative) staff were sampled for the study. The proportionate stratified random sampling technique of balloting without replacement was used to select the respondents for the study. A 42-item four point rating scale structured questionnaire titled "Cultism and the Management of Universities Questionnaire (CMUQ)" and an "Interview Schedule" were used for data collection. The instruments were validated by five experts, three in Educational Management, one in Measurement and Evaluation and one in Guidance and Counseling. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through a trial survey and testing which yielded a Cronbach Alpha correlation co-efficient of 0.91 which was considered high enough and reliable to use for the study. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while frequency, percentages and charts were used to analyze the responses from the interview schedule. Chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of-fit was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings indicated that cultism significantly influenced examination integrity and academic calendar in federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria. It was recommended among others that the management of various universities should endeavour to be consistent with their policies that would help to enhance conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning in the universities and minimize issues that may spur students to involving themselves in cult activities.

Keywords: Cultism, Management of Federal Universities, Examination Integrity, Academic Calendar

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Introduction

All over the world, universities have often been regarded as "citadels of learning". They are regarded as institutions where students pursue and acquire intellectual, technological, character, moral and virtuous skills. As a result, universities in certifying their graduates, indicate that they have groomed them both in character and in learning. The main objective of a university is to provide high quality, comprehensive educational and training opportunities that are compatible to changing needs of the students. Through its academic programmes, universities prepare students for the challenges of the 21st Century and empower them to meet the task of a rapidly changing world. A university is dedicated to providing staff and students with the environment and infrastructure that help them develop potential for scholarship, creative work, professional realization and service. However, this tradition does not seem to stand the test of time any more in Nigeria as some students in many universities appear to have different agenda (Anadi, Egboka & Anierobi, 2011).

As observed by Uzokwe (2008), some universities have become citadels for cultists, cheats, armed robbers and even prostitutes. To make matters worse, some students see these vices as a way of life in many universities. The situation seems to be terrible particularly in some federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria as students' behaviours seem not to conform to the norms and values of universities and the entire society as a whole. For instance, in July 10, 1999, two undergraduates of the Federal University of Jos were shot dead early Sunday morning by gunmen suspected to be cult members. A University examination and record block was also burnt down to ashes to prevent the graduation of students because some cult members could not graduate based on poor performance in their examinations (Usman, 2015). Similarly, on 5th June, 2016, the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, was shut down indefinitely following cult activities which led to the death of four students and a security guard. These among others are evidence of different activities of cultism which contravene the rules and regulations of the universities. The universities which ought to be ideal place for the training of minds have become war zones where cult groups unleash their terror on the community (Mallium, 2007).

Cultism is defined as any form of organisation whose activities are exclusively kept away from the knowledge of others (Ogunbameru, 2004). Such activities according to Ogunbameru are carried out at odd hours of the day and they often clash with the accepted norms and values of everyday life. Ogunbameru, further states that cult activities have been made illegal but the practices continue due to loopholes in the system. This makes it difficult for university authorities to prove allegations of membership in secret cults and the danger posed by returning cultists to campus after serving their punishment. Cults operate underground with members not using their real names. Government legislation seems to be ineffective in stamping the practice out of universities. This issue needs sustained attention by both government and individual institutions because it seems to impact negatively on the quality of the education offered.

Ogunade (2012) asserts that secret cults in Nigerian universities started as fraternities at the University of Ibadan in 1952 led by Wole Soyinka and members of his group with the sole aim of maintaining law and order in the campuses. This is a role performed by secret societies in the adult communities. The cults at that time were in existence with the aim of addressing acts of injustice, victimization and other issues capable of disturbing the peaceful atmosphere of students and institutions. One

of the ways by which they achieve their aims was through their various publications where they expose various vices in the campuses. According to Akpabio (2013), cultism started mainly as a lobby group of students in order to be heard by the university authorities concerning issues of their interest. Besides, one of the objectives of the groups was to inspire patriotic sentiments and to check the neo-colonialist mentality spreading among the nation's educated class due to western education.

The history of the university of Ibadan, according to Adigwu (2009) shows that the bulk of the first and second class upper honours students are usually found among these groups of students. Adigwu, claims that the first seven founders of Buccaneers fraternity were all PhD holders. Researches by Ogunade (2002) and Fajana (2006) showed that the Confraternity has about 24 PhD holders, 250 Masters Degree holders and about 790 First Degree holders with about 78 lawyers (Adigwu, 2009).

As observed by Abdu (2013), the activities of secret cult groups create an atmosphere of indiscipline, deviance, lawlessness and insecurity of lives and properties in institutions of learning (Abdu, 2013). Abdu further observes that cultists. Usually use intimidation, terrorism, violence and blackmail to force lecturers to compromise standards by awarding marks or grades that they do not deserve. Observation by the researcher reveals that many Nigerian newspapers and magazines have become "bulletin boards" for reporting the daily exploits of members of secret cults. Unfortunately, despite all efforts to tackle the problem, secret cult activities in federal universities in particular seem to have defied all solutions which seem to negatively influence the effective management of federal universities.

Management is defined as the field of human behaviour in which managers plan, organizes, staff, direct and control human and financial resources in an organised group effort in order to achieve desired individual and group objectives with optimum efficiency and effectiveness (Markson, 2011). The management of universities according to Ogbogu (2013) refers to the means by which universities are planned, coordinated, staffed, operated, organized and managed. The increased incidence of cultism in Nigerian universities has indeed hampered the effective realization of the institution objectives (Ede & Adayi, 2003).

Cultism as observed by the researcher in the North Central Zone of Nigeria could have negative consequences on the effective and efficient management of universities in the area. This can be observed from their activities which seem to influence the examination integrity of universities. Examination integrity entails the process whereby examinations are conducted by university authorities without any unlawful act or interference (Jimoh, 2009). Such examinations are conducted with moral soundness. As observed by Jimoh, cult-related activities of students tend to hamper effective conduct of examinations as the cultist are fond of causing distraction in an ongoing examinations which pave way for them to cheat or intimidate lecturers to have examination questions before conduct of examinations or meet them after examinations to pass them with good grades whether they like it or not.

Moreover, another area of concern expressed by educational stakeholders in the study area is the issue of academic calendar of the universities which seems to be disrupted by frequent cult clashes in the university. School calendar, according to Oyemwinmina and Aibieyi (2015) is an official list of dates and deadlines found at the beginning of the undergraduate catalogue of public university which specifies the dates for semesters and terms, enrolment periods, examination periods, holidays, period's

classes are not in session. The academic calendars of universities in Nigeria are always disrupted as a result of the affected campus peace whenever there is cult invasion. This is because during cult clashes, there is high tension created on campus which scares other students away from the school, thereby compelling university authorities to close down the university till further notice. This scenario seems to bring set back to the implementation of academic programmes of universities. Moreover, such developments seem to have been witnessed in many universities in the area of study. It is against this background that the researchers deemed it necessary to investigate the influence of cultism on the management of federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The activities of cultists on university campuses are quite worrisome. They seem to have generated a daily public discussion on the menace of cult related activities in universities particularly the federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. This seems to have bordered many stakeholders of university education in the area, especially staff and students of universities, parents, government and the community over the likely influence of cultism on the management of federal universities. The former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor T. Vincent in 1997 was quoted as saying that "Cultism worries", while he was still in office. Cultism seems to pose a stigma to all universities particularly federal universities in the North Central Nigeria today. Never before, has there been a high rate of examination malpractice, disruption of academic calendar, high level of insecurity, brain drain, loss of lives and property and increased indiscipline among students on campuses. There is hardly any academic session without reported cases of cultism in some federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Personal observation by the researchers revealed that many federal universities in the study area seem to have experience the menace of cultism. Lives of promising young lecturers and students seem to have been cut short by the bloody hands of murderous gangs on campuses. This scenario can be related to the recent happenings in the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi in March 2016 where three students were shot dead in the university campus by cult members. There was fear everywhere around the university community leading to the closure of the university for two weeks before it was reopened for normal academic activities.

Stakeholders of university education are therefore worried over the increased incidence and activities of cultism in the study area and their likely influence on the management of federal universities in the areas of increase in examination malpractice, disruption of academic calendar among others. Observation from relevant university stakeholders in the study area has revealed that examinations conducted in some federal universities in the study area seem to be questionable because of the way cultists intimidate invigilators who allow them to cheat and pass their examinations. This situation seems to be the case in the federal universities in the study area. The researcher observed that the influence of cultism on the management of federal universities in the study area has not been well investigated by scholars in the study area. This motivated the researcher to investigate further into the influence of cultism on the management of federal universities in the study area. The problem of this study stated in a question form therefore is: In what ways do cultisms influence the management of federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to examine the influence of cultism on the management of federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. determine the influence of cultism on examination integrity in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.
2. ascertain the influence of cultism on academic calendar in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. How does cultism influence examination integrity in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?
3. What is the influence of cultism on academic calendar in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. Cultism has no significant influence on examination integrity in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.
4. Cultism has no significant influence on academic calendar in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Methodology

The study adopted the analytical survey research design. An analytical survey is one which attempts to describe and explain why certain situations exist as it is concerned with hypothesis testing (Caldwell, 2007). Analytical survey research design was suitable in this study because, it helped the researchers in describing the existing conditions of the federal universities in the study area with frequent cases of cultism. In addition, it helped in the testing the hypotheses of the study. The study was confined in North Central Zone of Nigeria which comprised Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau States and the Abuja Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. The population of the study comprised 10,249 (4,845 academic and 5,405 administrative) staff in the seven federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. A sample of 1,025 (485 academic and 540 administrative) staff were selected for the study. The proportionate stratified random sampling technique of balloting without replacement was used to select the respondents for the study. A 14-item four point rating scale structured questionnaire titled "Cultism and the Management of Universities Questionnaire (CMUQ)" and an "Interview Schedule" was used for data collection. The instruments were validated by five experts, three in Educational Management, one in Measurement and Evaluation and one in Guidance and Counseling. The reliability of the instruments were ascertained through a trial survey and testing which yielded a Cronbach Alpha correlation co-efficient of 0.91. This was considered high enough and reliable to use for the study. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. The Boundary limit for Decision Making was 1.00-1.49=Strongly Disagree, 1.50-2.49=Disagree, 2.50-3.49=Agree, 3.50-4.00=Strongly Agree. The hypotheses were tested using chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of fit at .05 level of significance. The decision was

that if the calculated (χ^2) value was greater than the critical table value, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted and vice versa.

Results and Findings

This section presents and discusses the results of the study.

Research Question One:

How does cultism influence examination integrity in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria?

The data that provided answer to the research question are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of the Influence of Cultism on Examination Integrity in Federal Universities

Item No	Item Description	N	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Decision
1.	Cult groups threaten lecturers to reveal examination questions to them thus influencing the integrity of the examinations.	1012	417	329	180	86	3.06	0.96	Agree
2.	Cultists fight to disrupt the examination process and have their way to cheat, thus questioning the normal conduct of the examinations.	1012	503	410	55	44	3.36	0.77	Agree
3.	Cultists intimidate lecturers to change their scores in an already written examination, thus questioning the integrity of the examinations.	1012	611	304	69	28	3.48	0.74	Agree
4.	Cultists harass invigilators of examinations, thus making way for them to cheat in the examinations, which negatively influences the normal conduct of examination.	1012	719	248	31	14	3.65	0.61	Strongly Agree
5.	Cultists instil fear in invigilators to allow them cheat in examinations which does not affect the normal conduct of the examinations.	1012	87	101	408	416	1.86	0.91	Disagree
6.	Cultists threaten examination officers to reveal examination questions to them thereby influencing the proper conduct of the examination.	1012	421	419	134	47	3.21	0.81	Agree
7.	Cult activities check the victimization of students by lecturers, thus promoting examination integrity.	1012	212	109	364	327	2.20	1.11	Disagree
Cluster mean and Standard Deviation							2.97	0.84	Agree

Source: Field Survey (2017).

Decision Rule: 1.00-1.49=SD, 1.50-2.49=D, 2.50-3.49=A, 3.50-4.00=SA

Table 1 shows that items 1-7 had mean scores of 3.06, 3.36, 3.48, 3.65, 1.86, 3.21 and 2.20 with corresponding standard deviation of 0.96, 0.77, 0.74, 0.61, 0.91, 0.81 and 1.11 respectively. Based on the boundary criteria for decision making, it means the mean scores for items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 were above the cut-off point of 2.50 while the mean scores for items 5 and 7 were rated below the cut-off point of 2.50. This means that respondents agreed that cult groups threaten lecturers to reveal examination questions to them thus influencing the integrity of the examinations. The respondents agreed that cultists fight to disrupt the examination process and have their way to cheat, thus questioning the normal conduct of the examinations. The respondents also agreed that cultists intimidate lecturers to change their scores in an already written examination, thus questioning the integrity of the examinations. The respondents agreed that cultists harass invigilators of examinations, thus making way for them to cheat in the examinations, hence negatively influencing the normal conduct of the examination. The respondents disagreed with the statement that cultists hardly instil fear in invigilators to allow them cheat in examinations which does not affect the normal conduct of the examinations. The respondents agreed that cultists threaten examination officers to reveal examination questions to them thereby influencing the proper conduct of the examination. The respondents also disagreed with the statement that cult activities check the victimization of students by lecturers thus promotes examination integrity. The cluster mean of 2.97 with standard deviation of 0.84 was also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that cultism influences examination integrity in federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Table 2: Percentage Response of the Oral Interview on Influence of Cultism on Examination Integrity in Federal Universities

Themes	Frequency	Percent (%)
Intimidation of Invigilators.	12	24.0
Disruption of ongoing examinations.	14	28.0
Threatening of examination secretaries to reveal questions.	10	20.0
Threatening of lecturers to change their scores.	5	10.0
Fighting in the examination hall.	3	6.0
Making of noise in examination hall.	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

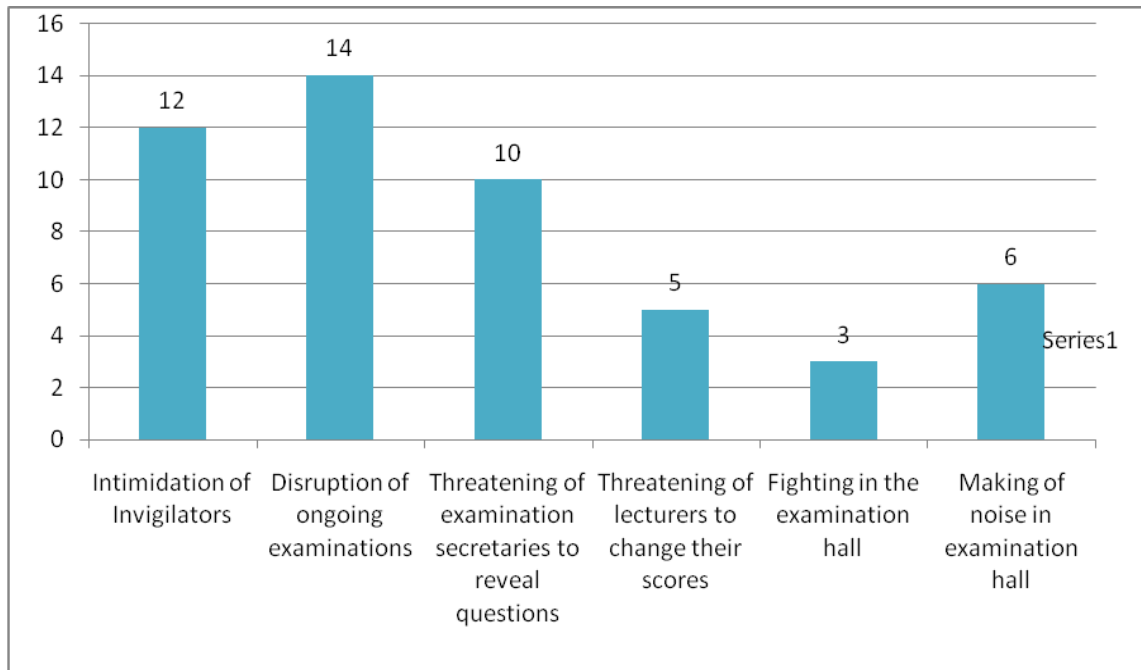


Figure 1: Bar Chart of the Responses of the Oral Interview on Influence of Cultism on Examination Integrity in Federal Universities

Table 2 and Figure 1 showed that from the oral interview on the influence of cultism on examination integrity in federal universities, (24%) said that cultists intimidate of invigilators to enable them cheat in examinations, (28%) said cultists disrupt ongoing examinations, (20%) said that cultists threaten examination secretaries to reveal questions to them and (10%) said cultists threaten lecturers to change their scores. In a similar vein, (6%) were of the views that cultism fight in the examination hall to make them have their way and cheat, while (12%) said that cultists make noise in examination hall to cause confusion in the examination hall and cheat. This implies that more of the interviewee agreed that cultism has negative influence on examination integrity in federal universities.

Research Question Two:

What is the influence of cultism on academic calendar in federal universities?

The data that provided answer to the research question are presented on table 2.

Table 3: Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of the Influence of Cultism on Academic Calendar in Federal Universities

Item No	Item Description	N	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Decision
8.	Cult violence on university campuses put academic activities of the university on hold for sometime.	1012	462	406	93	51	3.26	0.83	Agree
9.	Cult violence on university campuses does not change the academic calendar of a university.	1012	143	99	461	309	2.08	0.98	Disagree
10.	Cult clashes hardly interfere with the normal running of academic schedules of a university.	1012	88	112	405	407	1.88	0.92	Disagree
11.	Cult clashes on university campuses hinder students from receiving all their lectures in a semester	1012	394	501	40	77	3.20	0.83	Agree
12.	Cult violence on university campuses does not put academic activities of the university on hold for sometimes.	1012	163	97	321	431	1.99	1.08	Disagree
13	Cult-clashes on university campus compel university management to adjust her academic programmes.	1012	416	399	108	89	3.13	0.92	Agree
14	Cult violence on campuses makes it difficult for lecturers to cover their course content for the semester due to the disruption of academic activities.	1012	405	402	127	78	3.12	0.91	Agree
Cluster Mean and Standard Deviation							2.67	0.92	Agree

Source: *Field Survey (2017).*

Table 3 showed that items 8-14 had mean scores of 3.26, 2.08, 1.88, 3.20, 1.99, 3.13 and 3.12 with corresponding standard deviations of 0.83, 0.98, 0.92, 0.83, 1.08, 0.92 and 0.91 respectively. Based on the boundary criteria for decision making, it means that the mean scores for items 8, 11, 13 and 14 were rated above the cut-off point of 2.50 the mean scores for items 9, 10 and 12 were below the cut-off point of 2.50. This means that respondents agreed that cult violence on university campuses puts academic activities of a university on hold for sometime. The respondents disagreed with the statement that cult violence on university campuses does not change the academic calendar of university. The respondents also disagreed with the statement that cult clashes hardly interfere with the normal running of academic schedules of

university. The respondents agreed that cult clashes on university campuses hinder students from receiving all their lectures in a semester. The respondents also disagreed with the statement that cult violence on university campuses does not put academic activities of the university on hold for sometimes. The respondents agreed that cult-clashes on university campus compel university management to adjust her academic programmes and that cult violence on campuses makes it difficult for lecturers to cover their course content for the semester due to the disruption of academic activities. The cluster mean of 2.97 with standard deviation, of 0.84 was also above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that cultism influences academic calendar in federal universities.

Table 4: Percentage Response of the Oral Interview on Influence of Cultism on Academic Calendar in Federal Universities

Themes	Frequency	Percent (%)
Teaching and learning is put on hold for sometimes.	13	26.0
Examination date is changed.	8	16.0
Various university union elections dates are shifted.	6	12.0
Teaching practice and industrial training dates are changed.	11	22.0
Matriculation dates for new students are postponed.	7	14.0
Convocation activities are put on hold till further notice.	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

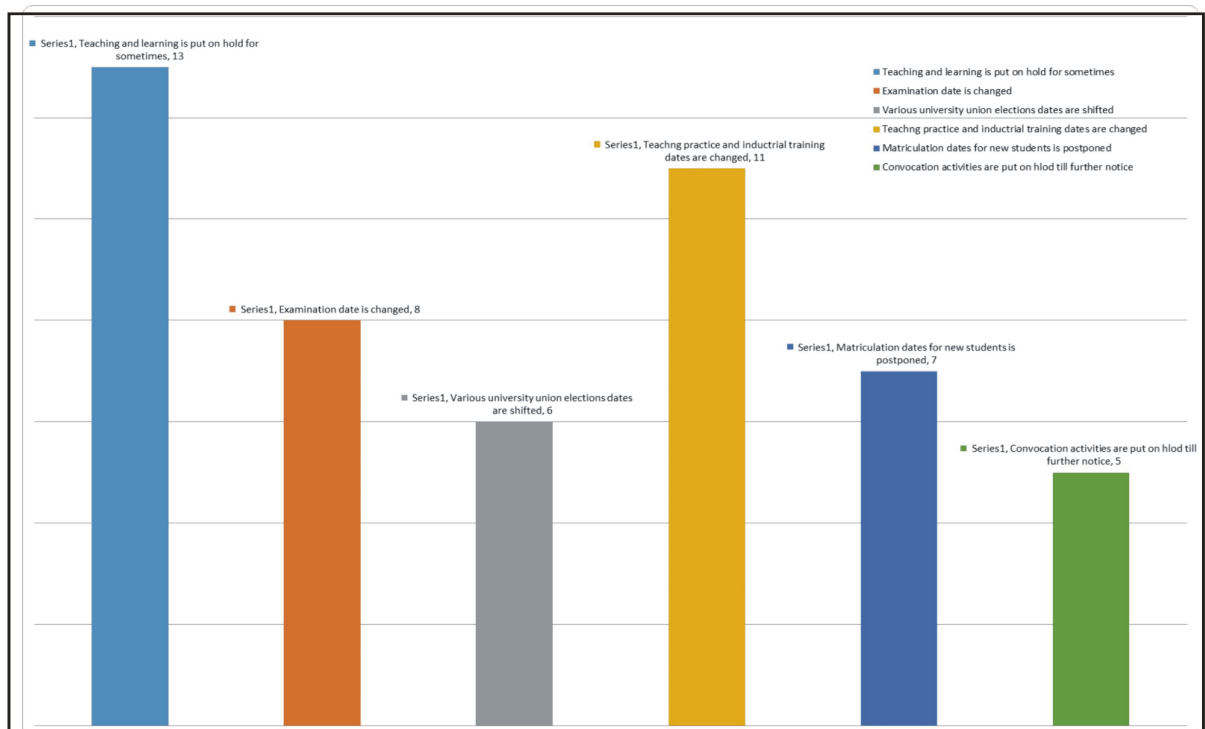


Figure 2: Bar Chart of the Responses of the Oral Interview on Influence of Cultism on Academic Calendar in Federal Universities

Table 4 and Figure 2 showed that the responses of the respondents in the interview schedule represented on the bar chart pointed out that due to the activities of cultists, teaching and learning is put on hold for sometimes (26%), examination date is changed 16%, various university union elections dates are shifted (12%), teaching practice and industrial training dates are changed (22%), matriculation dates for new students are postponed (14%) and convocation activities are put on hold till further notice (10%). From the result of the interview, it means that the views of the interviewee correspond with that of the views collected using questionnaire. This implies that more of the respondents agreed that cultism influences academic calendar in federal universities.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypotheses One

Cultism has no significant influence on examination integrity in federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Table 8: Chi-square test of the Influence of Cultism on Examination Integrity in Federal Universities

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of Sig.	df	χ^2 -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	85	253.0	-168.0	0.05	3	681.79	0.00	Sig.
D	14	253.0	-239.0					
A	410	253.0	157.0					
SA	503	253.0	250.0					
Total	1012							

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 253.0.

Table 8 revealed that $\chi^2 = 681.7$, $df = 3$ and $p = 0.00$. Since the p-value of 0.00 is less than the set alpha-value of 0.05 ($p < 0.05$) at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that cultism has no significant influence on examination integrity in federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria was therefore, not accepted. This implies that cultism has significant influence on examination integrity in federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Hypothesis Two:

Cultism has no significant influence on academic calendar in federal universities.

Table 9: Chi-square test of the Influence of Cultism on Academic Calendar in Federal Universities

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of Sig.	df	χ^2 -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	142	253.0	-111.0	0.05	3	258.13	0.00	Sig.
D	112	253.0	-141.0					
A	353	253.0	100.0					
SA	405	253.0	152.0					
Total	1012							

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 253.0.

Table 9 revealed that $\chi^2 = 258.13$ $df = 3$ and $p = 0.00$. Since the p-value of 0.00 is less than the set alpha-value of 0.05, ($p < 0.05$) at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that cultism has no significant influence on academic calendar in federal universities is therefore, not accepted. This means that cultism has significant influence on academic calendar in federal universities.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding of the study revealed that cultism influenced examination integrity in federal universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria. This means that cultism puts examinations conducted in federal universities in a question hence it causes distraction to the acceptable standard of conducting examinations in universities. This finding is in agreement with Udo (2011) who found that cultism, poor study habits, paucity of educational facilities and inability of schools to cover prescribed syllabuses were significant remote causes of examination malpractice in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State. The finding also in agreement with Emaikwu (2012) who reported that Nigerian universities has degenerated into decadent, morbid institutions plagued with the fear of blood thirsty secret cult members, drug driven violence and anarchy as well as rampant cases of examination malpractices. The study also revealed that examination malpractice could lead to lack of confidence in educational products, results in half-baked graduates, discouragement of hard work and reduces the standard of education. The study maintains that the calamity of examination malpractice is not just the havoc it is wrecking on the educational system but the gradual indoctrination of youths into the culture of fraud. The findings of this study is also in corroboration with the views of Anger and Tyav (2006) who posit that during examinations, some cult members intimidate examination administrators so that they can cheat.

The second finding of the study showed that cultism influenced academic calendar in federal universities. This result implies that academic calendar of federal universities in the study area are not stable as a result of frequent cult violence on the university campuses. This is because such a university is shut down for some times before reopening, thereby changing the academic calendar. This finding is in consonance with Ivagher, Uju and Iliamkondo (2016) who found that cultism has significant influence on academic calendar and loss of lives and properties in secondary schools in Benue State, Nigeria. Moreover, this finding also agrees with Haruna (2016) who found that cultism, truancy, stealing, examination malpractice, sexual immorality and drug abuse had significant effects on the management of secondary schools. This finding supports Ogbonnaya (2009) who states that the frequent disruption of academic calendar is also caused by campus cultism as violent clashes often result in frequent closure of affected schools and students stay longer than proposed period to finish their course of study. At times when they are called back from the closure, lecturers usually rush to cover up the lost times thereby producing half backed graduates. Contrary to this finding, Rotimi (2005) asserts that the secret cult phenomenon is not new in Africa. Rotimi further maintains that cultist groups enjoy subtle support and patronage from both government and school authorities rather than targeting at disrupting the academic calendar of universities. Rotimi goes on to state that in some cases, past members who had migrated to foreign countries sometimes remitted money to support their former cult groups. Support by past members has also been observed in Sierra Leone where past members well placed in academia, commerce and industry regularly render financial support and participate in their former cults' activities.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that cultism significantly influences examination integrity and academic calendar in federal universities in the North Central Zone of Nigeria.

Recommendations

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

1. The management of the various universities should endeavour to be consistent with their policies which would help to enhance conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning in the universities and minimize issues that may spur students in involving themselves in cult activities.
2. the efforts of law enforcement agencies in fishing out cultists among students. In addition, they should as much as possible be very strict on the policy of rustication or expulsion of students caught practising cult-related activities. This could help to minimize the issue of constant closure of the universities as a result of cult violence which negatively influence academic calendar of some university.

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