Management Strategies in Addressing Cultism in Polytechnics, Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the management strategies in addressing cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to select 350 out of 701 representing (49.92%) respondents from Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin and Federal Polytechnic, Offa. A researcher-designed instrument divided into three sections was used for the data collection. The instrument titled Questionnaire on Management Strategies in Addressing Cultism in Polytechnics (QMSACP). This instrument was validated through content and construct validities while test retest method was used to obtain the 0.71 for its reliability. The findings revealed that the mean ratings of items in research questions One, two and three are greater than the 2.50 benchmark mean. Therefore, all the items were accepted. Research question four showed that 50.3 % respondents agreed that there was high level of cult activities in polytechnics in Kwara State, Nigeria. The study recommended among others that polytechnics administrators such as Rectors, Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursars, Librarians and Directors should ensure a stiffer punishment to students involved in cult related activities in the institutions.

Keywords: Management Strategies, Cultism, Polytechnics, Kwara State, Nigeria

Introduction

Polytechnic is one of the higher intitutions of learning in

Nigeria and it is primarily set up to produce in-depth technical manpower in administrative, technical and commercial fields for the development of national economy. In Nigeria, it is widely recognized that polytechnics play crucial roles in the education of future leaders and development of high level technical manpower. According to the National Board for Technical Education (1993), polytechnics are technical institutions offering multi post-secondary technical education programmes outside the universities leading to the award of Diplomas or Certificates such as the National Diploma (ND), Higher National Diploma HND) and Post-HND professional Diplomas. The decision of the Federal Government of Nigeria to set up polytechnic education was predicated on the need to revolutionize the society technologically (Okpeodua, 2007). Hence, polytechnics are established to train and produce the technical manpower necessary for the execution of the nation's developmental plans, goals and strategies. This is a role which they have effectively played since the establishment of the first polytechnic, Yaba College of Technology in 1947.

The sensitive position of polytechnics in the Nigerian educational system was vividly captured by the 2002 education summit organized by the Federal Ministry of Education. At the summit, polytechnics were recognized as authentic tertiary educational institutions on the same pedestral with the universities but with its own characteristic and orientation towards the production of technological manpower and technological innovations for industrial development in Nigeria. The Federal Ministry of Education Summit (2003), therefore, resolved that the mission of polytechnics is to produce knowledgeable and innovative graduates worthy in character and learning through effective teaching, research and public service for the technological advancement of the country.

This was also emphasized in Federal Polytechnic Act 1979 that objectives of Nigeria polytechnics has captured in section (2) of the Act include: (a) to provide full-time or part-time courses of instruction and training in technology, applied science,

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commerce and management, and in such other fields of applied learning relevant to the needs of the development of Nigeria in the areas of industrial and agricultural production and distribution and for research in the development and adaptation of techniques as the Council may from time to time, determine; (b) to arrange conferences, seminars and study groups relative to the fields of learning specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (i); (c) to perform such other functions as in the opinion of Council may serve to promote the objectives of the Polytechnic. In the same vein, section 80(c) of the National Policy on Education (FRN) (2013) states that "polytechnics shall give training and impact necessary skills that will fast track the nation's drive towards technological development as well as producing graduates who can prove themselves worthy men and women and who are able to use their brain as adequately as they can apply their hands. Therefore, management of polytechnics is a complex task which requires sufficient expertise in administration, communication, handling of staff-related issues, financial management, and maintenance of structures, facilities and equipment. As good as these objectives were, the students from these institutions engaged in various forms of anti-social activities like their counterparts in other tertiary institutions in the country. Such anti-social activities include: cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping, social harassment and raping among others. However, the study focuses on cultism and how it is being managed by the administrators of polytechnics in Kwara State.

Cult-related activities in polytechnics in Nigeria is one of the burning issues that is affecting academic and non-academic staff, the students and the general public. Cultism has been a major obstacle to the attainment of quality assurance in Nigerian polytechnics. For instance at the Kwara State Polytechnic, there have been reported cases of students carrying dangerous weapons about within the school environment such as matchets, axes, arrows, knives, guns etc in executing inter and intra cult war, violence and conflict between and among different confraternities on the campus. Students could be seen chasing

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one other with these dangerous weapons during the school hours on campus resulting into death.

Cultism have been a major obstacle in the attainment of quality assurance in Nigerian polytechnics. An environment that is suppose to be a place for teaching, learning and research suddenly turned into a battle field where students are in possession of dangerous weapons in executing inter-and intra cult wars, violent conflicts with the law enforcement agencies or instances of rape cases and killing of opponents. Cases of students threatening invigilators in the examination hall with guns are rising in higher institutions. Students threatening the examination malpractice committee members to divulge information on what transpired at the meetings on those to be expelled.

Rosedale and Langone (2004) defined a cult as a group or movement exhibiting a great or excessive devotion or dedication to some persons, ideas or things and employing unethical manipulative techniques of persuasive and control designed to advance the goals of the group's leaders to the actual or possible detriment of members, their families or the community. Opaluwah (2000) stated that cult clashes led to the incarceration, rustication or expulsion of both innocent and guilty students and hospitalization of students thereby suspending learning for some period of time. In addition to the physical damage and disruption of the learning process, life on campuses where cultist activities prevail can be very unpleasant and insecure for those who are not directly involved with them (Smah, 2001).

Cases of cult activities have generated a lot of fear, tension, insecurity and closure of schools in Nigeria. School authorities, parents, members of the public and the government have been concerned with how to develop acceptable frameworks of action to ameliorate the menace of secret cults and other violence, which have continued to create insecurity to lives and property on campuses. Unlike in the past when students in tertiary institutions were described as relatively peaceful and the society was described as crime-free, today, students are

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increasingly getting engaged in even complex crimes such as killing of innocent students, citizens and even lecturers whose courses were failed by the violent members.

The following are the cultism activities visited on the innocent students of Polytechnics in Kwara State as collected by the researcher from the Police Headquarters, Ilorin; on 3/3/2016 at about 1400hrs, the troop of 22 Armoured Brigade, Sobi Cantonment, Ilorin and Policemen were on patrol within Kwara Polytechnic. In this process two students were arrested and recovered from them with one locally made Revolver Pistol. Thereafter, investigation was conducted by police and it was revealed that the students arrested belong to the gang of thieves that were terrorizing and killing innocent souls of Kwara State Polytechnic students in Ilorin and its environs. While the 2nd suspect was arrested based on the information to be a member of secret cult. Therefore, they were charged to court for the offences committed.

On Wednesday, 7th August, 2013 at about 12.30pm another cultism activity occurred at the Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. A student of the institution reported to the security officers at the security office that two young men slapped him as he was looking at them. Thereafter, the security men chased the young men and they were cut with locally made pistol. Not knowing that other gangs were at a close distance chasing the security officers and in the process, the suspects jumped out through the window on the waiting motor-cycle and they sped off. However, the locally made pistol was brought back to the Main Security Office.

On 16/2/2015 at about 2000hrs at the Polytechnic Gate Villa, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, a suspect at gun point kidnapped a female student of the institution from her residence at Poly Gate to the residence of his suspected friend and ended-up having canal knowledge of her. Investigations revealed that the suspect with a gun instilled fear on the female student that he kidnapped to the residence of his colleague. Thereafter, the suspect raped the lady at gun point. The investigation also revealed that the suspect and his colleagues were members of the

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Eiye Secret Cult terrorizing innocent students of the Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. The scenario was the same in federal polytechnic Offa, Kwara state between 2013 till date. Therefore, this study investigated the management strategies in addressing cultism in polytechnics, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The major problem in Nigerian tertiary institutions, particularly polytechnics, is that of cult activities threat to the realization of educational goals in the tertiary institutions. The problem of cult activities have led to the death of students and even lecturers on campus, staff and students of many other tertiary institutions live in perpetual fear of cult activities on campus. If these ugly trends are not eradicated the future of our tertiary institutions as agents of social change and national development will be seriously threatened.

A number of studies has been carried out on cultism in tertiary institutions among are Shoal, Kapi and Ekpiteta (1997) conducted an investigation on management of secret cult activities in secondary schools in Sapele, Delta State. Onoyase and Arubayi (2008) conducted an investigation on the effective cultism management technique as perceived by academic staff, non-teaching staff and students in institutions of higher learning in Nigeria: a case study of Federal Colleges of Education in Nigeria. Bawa (2008) investigated causes of campus cultism in Nigerian Universities. The study was limited to Universities in South Western Nigeria. all these studies were conducted outside Kwara State and their focuses were on secondary schools, federal colleges of education and universities while the present study was conducted in polytechnics in Kwara State, Nigeria. In view of this, the researcher realized that there were gaps in knowledge yet to be filled. As a result of this, the study focused on management strategies in addressing cultism in the polytechnics in Kwara State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to investigate

management strategies in addressing cultism in polytechnics, Kwara State. Specifically, other purposes of the study were to:

1. examine the prevalence of cult activities among students of polytechnics in Kwara State
2. examine the causes of cultism among students of polytechnics in Kwara State
3. find out the strategies needed in managing cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State
4. ascertain the level of cult activities among students in polytechnics in Kwara State

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study:

1. How prevalent are cult activities among students of polytechnics in Kwara State?
2. What are the causes of cultism among students of polytechnics in Kwara State?
3. What are the strategies needed in managing cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State?
4. What is the level of cult activities among students in polytechnics in Kwara State?

Empirical Studies on Management Strategies in Addressing Cultism

The following are the empirical studies on management strategies in addressing cultism which include:

Shoal, Kapi and Ekpiteta (1997) conducted an investigation on management of secret cult activities in secondary schools in Sapele, Delta State. The result of their study showed that students expect much from the guidance counsellor who is expected to provide adequate information and guidance to students on the social problems associated with campus cult. The present work tends to find management strategies in addressing cultism in polytechnics located in Kwara State.

Onyeyido (2002) carried out an investigation on campus

cults as perceived by students and lecturers in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The present work tends to find management strategies in addressing cultism in Kwara State polytechnics.

Okere (2003) investigated family socio-economic status and students' cultism in Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT). The study found that some big men in the corridors of power supply guns to their sons and daughters who are cult members and that police cannot take actions because of the positions of their parents. The present work tends to find management strategies in addressing cultism in public-owned polytechnics in Kwara State.

Onoyase and Arubayi (2008) conducted an investigation on the effective cultism management technique as perceived by academic staff, non-teaching staff and students in institutions of higher learning in Nigeria: a case study of Federal Colleges of Education in Nigeria. Their study revealed that coercion, persuasion, public renunciation, public awareness campaign and schools disciplinary measures were found to be effective technique in the management of cultism. The present study investigates management strategies in addressing cultism in Kwara State polytechnics.

Bawa (2008) investigated causes of campus cultism in Nigerian Universities. The study was limited to Universities in South Western Nigeria. The major findings of the causes of campus cultism were to secure girls friends, seek financial assistance, easy access to high grades in examination, sheer curiosity, power and inordinate ambition. Parents and counsellors must internalize these causes and guide their wards properly to avoid the social problems associated with campus cultism. The present work tends to find management strategies in addressing cultism polytechnics in Kwara State.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey. The design was adopted because it looked into the analysis of management strategies in addressing cultism in

polytechnics in Kwara State and this made descriptive survey research design suitable for this study.

Table 1

Sample Frame of the Study

S/N	Kwara State Polytechnics	Population	Sample Size
1	Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin	486	214
2	Offa Polytechnic, Offa	215	136
Total		**701**	**350**

The population of this study comprised all the 486 high-ranking officers such as Rectors, Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursars, Librarian and Directors in Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin and 215 high-ranking officers (Registrar, Bursars, Directors, Heads of Department and Unit Directors) in Federal polytechnic, Offa as the two public-owned polytechnics in Kwara State. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The principal officers of the Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin and Federal Polytechnic, Offa were purposively selected. In this study, 214 respondents out of 486 from Kwara State polytechnic, Ilorin and 136 respondents out of 215 from Federal polytechnic, Offa. Simple random sampling technique was used to ensure that every member of the population has equal and independent chance of being selected. As a result of this, 350 out of 701 (49.92%) respondents used for the study. One instrument was used for data gathering for this study entitled: "Questionnaire on Management Strategies in Addressing Cultism in Polytechnics" (QMSACP). The instrument was administered to the administrators of Kwara State Polytechnics in Kwara State.

In order to determine and enhance the validity of the instrument, the researcher established test, both face and content validity, of the instrument. Thus, the instrument was validated by experts in the Department of Educational Management. Comments and suggestions were made to amend the instrument in order to ascertain its content and construct validities. To

determine the reliability of the instrument, test-retest reliability method was adopted in the study. The questionnaire was analyzed using Cronbach's Alpha method in order to determine the instrument reliability. The coefficient of 0.71 was obtained.

The data collected was analyzed with the use of Statistical Packages of Social Science (SPSS) version 21.0. Descriptive statistic of mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions generated for the study. The mean ratings from the analysis was indicated that the range between 2.50 and 4.00 was considered high or regular (which is accepted) while any item with a mean score below 2.50 was considered low or irregular (which is rejected). The level of the respondents was ascertained on high, moderate and low.

Findings and Discussion of Results

S/N	Prevalence of cult activities among students of polytechnics in Kwara State occur as a result of the following:	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Physical combat, beating or slapping among the cultists or non - cultist members inside or outside the campus	3.02	.852	Accepted
2	Sexual assault and harassment on other students who are not cultists	3.56	.356	Accepted
3	Using of sharp objects such as knives, blade, iron or gun to harm another inside or outside the campus	4.11	.111	Accepted
4	Threatening fellow students and lecturers inside or outside the campus	3.11	.432	Accepted
5	Killing other fellow students who are cultists or non -cultist members inside or outside the campus	2.98	.231	Accepted
6	Destruction of properties on campus	3.22	.241	Accepted
7	Abduction of students for punishment or ransom	2.59	.562	Accepted
8	Indulging on life unsafe and meaningless to both staff and students on campus	2.75	.231	Accepted
9	Harassing any non-members who snatched a member's girl friend or 'sugar daddy' (in case of female cultism)	3.11	.451	Accepted
10	Harassing any female students who refuse their amorous advances	3.50	.421	Accepted
11	Harassing any lecturer who insists on merit for passing examinations among others	2.89	.311	Accepted
12	Invading and disrupting school activities	3.02	.210	Accepted
13	Oppression of students to be submitted to their cult decisions	2.83	.451	Accepted
14	Discrepancies among different cult members which could lead to killing of innocent students	2.71	.317	Accepted
15	Violence on racism, colour discrimination and ethnical differences among students	2.55	.212	Accepted

Source: Field Work (2020)

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Table 2 shows the analysis of the responses given by the respondents on the mean ratings of the prevalence of cult activities among students of polytechnics in Kwara State. The items have mean ratings of 3.02, 3.56, 4.11, 3.11, 2.98, 3.22, 2.59, 2.75, 3.11 and 3.50 respectively. The standard deviation of. 852, .356, .111, .432, .231, 2.41, .562, .231, .451 and .421 respectively. The analysis implies that the mean ratings of these items are greater than 2.50 bench mark mean which were all accepted.

Research Question 2: What are the causes of cultism among students of polytechnics in Kwara State?

The analysis of data relevant for answering the above research question is presented on Table 3 below:

Table

S/N	Causes of cultism among students include the following:	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Students from broken home may be influenced to join cultism.	2.96	.747	Accepted
2	Students are influenced to join cultism for self-protection against danger or threatening on campus.	2.51	.726	Accepted
3	Parents that are in secret cult influence their children to be cultist.	2.56	.774	Accepted
4	Students indulge in cultism because those caught in cult activities are not persecuted	2.70	.980	Accepted
5	Students are influenced by their peer group to join cultism.	2.55	.553	Accepted
6	Poor and declining academic performance of students may lead to joining cultism.	3.11	.451	Accepted
7	Students indulge in cultism in order to be used for political benefits by the politicians.	2.99	.231	Accepted
8	Students who are already in nefarious activities such as armed robbery, prostitution etc may be influenced to join cultism.	2.52	.341	Accepted
9	Students join cultism in order to be respected and recognized on campus.	3.01	.112	Accepted
10	Students join cultism in order to influence the decision making of the school management.	2.97	.241	Accepted
11	Students join cultism in order to acquire power on campus.	2.55	.211	Accepted
12	Students indulge in cultism in order to be extorting other students on campus.	2.61	.562	Accepted
13	Student unionism influences students to join cultism.	2.67	.328	Accepted
14	Students are enforced and intimidated to join cultism.	2.79	.381	Accepted
15	Inadequate funding of the polytechnic to acceptably take care of students welfare encourages joining of cultism on campus.	3.52	.371	Accepted
16	Poor background of students may lead to joining cultism.	3.20	.555	Accepted
17	Poor societal development may influence students to join cultism.	2.92	.321	Accepted
18	Students are influenced to join cultism due to poor school environment.	2.82	.371	Accepted
19	Students belong to secret cults in order to be having and dating beautiful ladies on campus.	2.90	.230	Accepted
20	Students belong to secret cult in order to gain wealth and social identity.	2.88	.362	Accepted

Source: Field Work (2020)

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Table 3 indicates the analysis of the responses given by the respondents on the mean ratings of the causes of cult activities among students of polytechnics in Kwara State. The items have mean ratings of 2.96, 2.51, 2.56, 2.70, 2.55, 3.11, 2.99, 2.52, 3.01, 2.97 and 2.55 respectively. The standard deviation of. 747, .726, .774, .980, .553, .451,.231, .341, .112, .241 and .211 respectively. The analysis implies that the mean ratings of these items are greater than 2.50 bench mark mean which were all accepted.

Research Question 3: What are the strategies needed in managing cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State?
The analysis of data relevant for answering the above research question is presented on Table 4 below.

Table

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
	Quality Security Personnel			
1	Armed and well secured security men need to be positioned inside and outside campus	3.00	.555	Accepted
2	Vigilante groups need to monitor suspected cultists and their activities	2.65	.752	Accepted
3	Both Federal and State government establish mobile poli ce stations in every Federal and State polytechnics for the maintaince of laws and order at any time and to instill fear and decorum among the students.	2.95	.505	Accepted
	Good Communication Network			
4	Parents, religious organizations and governmen t are to work jointly on this measure	3.33	.156	Accepted
5	Parents need to be more vigilant concerning the activities of their children within and outside the home.	3.45	.312	Accepted
6	Polytechnics need to be reorganized, funded and provided with games so as to make polytechnics attractive, involving, so that youthful exuberances of students will find a rewarding outlet in competitive sports like football, athletics which could engage students in their spare times.	2.99	.311	Accepted
7	Students who do not belong to cults can be organised into anti - cult vanguard to watch and report cult members to the polytechnic authorities or to law enforcement agents.	2.85	.781	Accepted

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	Strict Admission Process			
8	Students are to be enfor ced to sign anti -social vices and anti - cult forms at the point of registration.	3.12	.451	Accepted
9	Thorough examination of students' home background before being admitted to school	3.11	.312	Accepted
10	Screening all student members and identifying t hose with criminal orientation and drug/alcohol abuse and recommend them for appropriate treatment	3.41	.556	Accepted
	Quality Security Gadgets			
11	There must be improved facilities and improved living conditions on campuses s o as to minimize perceived strain in the social system which underlines cultism on the campuses	3.55	.412	Accepted
12	school authorities must intensify armed patrol and surveillance on campuses CCTV needs to be positioned in every place of the campus	2.89	.456	Accepted
	Orientation Programmes for Students			
13	Government and non-governmental agencies are to step up their campaigns against cultism and its destructive tendencies	2.91	.223	Accepted

Table 4 indicates the analysis of the responses given by the respondents on the mean ratings of the strategies needed in managing cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State. The items have mean ratings of 3.00, 2.65, 2.95, 3.33, 3.45, 2.99, 2.85, 3.12, 3.11, 3.41, 3.55, and 2.89 respectively. The standard deviation of .555, .752, .505, .156, .312, .311, .781, .451, .312, .556. .412, and .456 respectively. This implies that the analysis of the mean ratings of these items are greater than 2.50 bench mark mean which were all accepted. This shows that items on the questionnaire of strategies needed in managing cultism are quality security personnel, good communication network, strict admission process, quality security gadgets, orientation programmes for students and strict disciplinary measures are efficient and efficient towards in managing and controlling cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State.

Research Question 4: What is the level of cult activities among students in polytechnics in Kwara State?

Table 5:
Level of Cult Activities among Students in Polytechnics in Kwara State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
High	176	50.3
Moderate	102	29.1
Low	72	20.6
Total	**350**	**100.0**

Source: Field Work (2020)

Table 5 shows the analysis of the responses given by the respondents on the level of cult activities among students in polytechnics in Kwara State. One hundred and seventy six of the total respondents, representing 50.3%, agreed that the level of cult activities among students in polytechnics in Kwara State was high, 29.1% agreed that it was moderate while the remaining 20.6% believed that it was low. This implies that the respondents with 50.3% constituted the majority of respondents who agreed that the level of cult activities among students was high in polytechnics in Kwara State.

Discussion of Findings

Findings from research question one indicated that the mean ratings of all the items on the prevalence of cult activities among students of polytechnics are greater than 2.50 bench mark mean which were all accepted. This implies that cult members do indulge in social vice activities on campus that could disrupt effective teaching and learning process. To the extent that sexual harassment, using sharp objects killing as well as threatening innocent fellow students are very paramount among the cult members on campus. This finding was supported by the findings of Thomas (2002) who stated that cultist groups enjoy subtle support and patronage from both government and school authorities even sometimes used by politicians for revenge and for setting personal scores. Findings of Pemede (2002) agrees with this finding that, cult as a group of students engaged in a particular set of worship that involves rituals and an oath that binds them together as one entity. This finding is in line with the view of Ogunbameru (2004) who concluded that secret cult as "any form of organization whose activities are not only

exclusively kept away from the knowledge of others but such activities are carried out at odd hours of the day and they often clash with the accepted orms and values of everyday life. Ogidefa (2008) agrees with this finding that, 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.

Results of research question two revealed that the mean ratings of the items on the causes of cultism are greater than 2.50 bench mark mean which were all accepted among students of polytechnics in Kwara State. This implies that, the causes of cultism among students of polytechnics in Kwara State could be as a result of students from broken home, self-protection, peer group influence, declining in academic performance, to be respected and regarded on campus, acquiring power among other causes of cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State. Findings of Smah (2001) agreed with this finding that, effect of causes of cultism in tertiary institutions could lead to physical damage and disruption of the learning process, life on campuses where cultist activities prevail can be very unpleasant and insecure for those who are not directly involved with them. This finding also support the view of Owoeye (1997) who established that strong links between a weak and defective family background or influence and tendencies for students to join cultism in tertiary institutions. In such cases, parents themselves may be members of secret cults and or they may be the perpetrators of child abuse and neglect. Rotimi (2005) agrees with this finding that children from broken or single parent homes often miss the much needed socialization process and as such fail to absorb the real social values of society, making them anti-social and aggressive. This finding agrees with the findings of Odili (2004) who gave 11 possible causes of the rising cases of cult activities in tertiary institutions which include erosion of education standards, economic difficulties, adventurism and egoism, sponsorship by community leaders, lack of integration, peer group influence and drug addiction, bad parenting and erosion of family values, oil

bunkering and sponsorship by politicians.

From research question three, the findings revealed that the analysis of the mean ratings of the items on the questionnaire of strategies needed in managing cultism are greater than 2.50 bench mark mean which were all accepted. This implies that management of polytechnics in Kwara State ensure that effective managing strategies are put in place such as quality security personnel, good communication network, strict admission process, quality security gadgets, orientation programmes for students and strict disciplinary measures in order to curtail cultism in polytechnics in Kwara State. The findings of Ogidefa (2008) is in consonance with this finding that, the management strategies of cultism could be useful in curbing cult activities in polytechnics, which include mandating every club or society to register with the campus authorities and every student activity will be monitored. Egbochukwu (2001) agrees with this finding that, culprit would also be brought to book. Joint actions of parents, law enforcement agents and the government are needed to stem the activities of secret societies which could enable students to be dissuaded from joining secret societies. Ihejietoh (2000) also agrees with this finding that suspension, rustication and proscription of cult members and various cults is one of the factors that motivate the existence of cults in tertiary institutions as strategies needed in managing cultism in polytechnics. Ihejietoh concluded that the approach is negative and as such it begets violence and aggression. This finding is in line with the findings of Omoegun and Akanle (2007) who suggested that, institutions of higher learning need to be reorganized, funded and provided with school facilities like security gadget facilities CCTV, satellite dish so as to make them attractive and involving curb youthful exuberances and cultism. This finding supports with the view of Jamiu (2008) who posited that, the school authorities must intensify armed patrol and surveillance on campuses. The current effort where students form vigilante groups for the purpose of monitoring of violence monitor violent should be encouraged.

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Findings of research question four indicated that the respondents with 50.3% constituted the majority of respondents who agreed that the level of cult activities among was moderate in polytechnics in Kwara State. This finding agrees with the findings of Ujo (2004) explained that, if students have good academic environment, the tendency towards cult crises and activities would be reduced and moderate in polytechnics. On the other hand, if the academic environment is poor, every little problem would be exploited by students to create confusion. This finding corroborates and agrees with the view of Olukoya (2007) that, cult activities have been very much on in our tertiary institutions leading to the constant harassment of students, staff and destruction of properties which could be highly controlled and managed. Ihejietoh (2000) supported this finding with the view that, "in various institutions of higher learning a good number of repentant students who openly renounced their membership of cultism surrendered their weapon of operation which could reduce the level of cult activities among students in polytechnics.

Conclusion

This study has been able to established that the problem of cultism, among students in polytechnics is a symptom of a decadent 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 polytechnics' 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 students concerned the goals of polytechnics.

Cult related activities can be nip to the bud if relevant authorities and polytechnic administrators inclusive give more attention to the issues related to cult activities in polytechnics and employ management strategies stated in this study like quality

security personnel, good communication network, strict admission process, quality security gadgets, orientation programmes for students and strict disciplinary measures much success will be achieved in tackling the problem of cultism in tertiary institutions.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made from the result of the findings;

i. The school administrators such Rectors, Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursars, Librarians and Directors at the Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin and Federal polytechnic, Offa should ensure a stiffer punishment to students carrying out actions leading to cultism in the institutions.

ii. The school administrators should ensure that management strategies stated in this study like quality security personnel, good communication network, strict admission process, quality security gadgets, orientation programmes for students and strict disciplinary measures should be fully and highly implemented without concern for political affiliation.

iii. The use of punishment should be enforce by Kwara State government on cult members so as to serve as deterrant for others.

iv. The school administrators should set up students' vigilante group to monitor and report any suspicious character, movement and meeting to the authorities immediately such is noticed.

v. Parents should embark on frequent and unannounced visits of their children and wards while they are in school.

vi. Administrators of the polytechnics should ensure that admission of students is strictly based on performance and not connections, bribery

vii. The school administrators should establish Mobile Police Stations both at the Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin and

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the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, for maintaining law and order at any time and to instill fear and decorum among the students.

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