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CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Climate change in Nigeria: Impacts and implications of intensification of meteorological events and access to safe water							
<i>Ajadike, Joseph Chike (PhD)</i>	5
A critical analysis of ethics and values in Nigerian public service							
<i>Orji, Orji Agha</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	25
Arable land resource conflict in Nigeria							
<i>Akujobi, C.T., Ebitari, Stanley and Amuzie, H.O.</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	39.
Behavioural decay and student success in tertiary institutions in Rivers State, Nigeria							
<i>Ozuru, Henry N. (PhD) and Cyprian, Jackson</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	67
Call for Articles	---	---	---	---	---	---	95

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EDITORIAL

Driven by curiosity and speculation as well as quest for new facts and principles, Pure Sciences stop at the development of general laws of nature and are less concerned with the practicality of their results or finds. Applied sciences take over from there, seeking the practical use of scientific knowledge and, therefore, forming the bridge between sciences and development. With the growth of the chemical and electrical power industries in the 19th century, scientific knowledge became of direct use in solving problems and the development of products.

The *Journal of Applied Sciences and Development* was born to publish materials on the areas bordering on the output of Applied Sciences as they relate to development of the society. It is a biannual published April and October beginning from 2010. However, due to high rate of rejection of low-standard papers, the two issues for a year could be published in one Volume, such as Volume 2 Number 1-2 of October 2011 and others. As usual, the current Issue, Volume 5 Number 1-2 of October 2014, is loaded with a variety of sound articles covering contemporary issues in Applied Sciences (including chemical weapons) and Development.

In the first paper, titled Climate change in Nigeria: Impacts and implications of intensification of meteorological events and access to safe water, Joseph C. Ajadike (PhD), of the Department of Geography and Meteorology, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Agbani-Enugu examined the impacts climate change on various sectors of Nigerian economy (such as agriculture and food security, water resources, human health, energy, recreation and tourism), the implications of intensification of meteorological events (such as floods, droughts, heat waves, ocean surges, strong winds and storms) and access to safe water. This became necessary because strong weather events have been identified to be impacting strongly on the hydrological cycle and water catchment systems in Nigeria. Both the evidence and impacts of these extreme weather events (especially floods, droughts and ocean surges) were found to be very strong on water supply and demand systems of Nigeria. The increasing frequency

and magnitudes of floods, droughts and ocean surges are capable of compromising access to potable water both in terms of quality and quantity in the country.

In the second paper, titled *A critical analysis of ethics and values in Nigerian public service*, Orji, O.A. of the College of Management Sciences, Evangel University Akaeze, Ebonyi State, Nigeria used the documentary method to achieve the objective of analysing secondary data descriptively, and using content analysis and relevant official documents, through inductive and deductive reasoning to reach the conclusions that ethics and values of public service in Nigeria are product of British colonial experience and long years of military dictatorship. These experiences had a negative influence on the ethics and value system in Nigeria public service because their motives were at variance with the principles of development administration which is the foundation modern Nigeria. The public service in Nigeria is trading the path of bribery and corruption which has led to gross abuse of the citizen right and poor service delivery to the masses. Ethics and value system needs fundamental overhaul through an articulate public service reforms to meet the challenges and realities of development and governance of the modern Nigeria.

The study recommended that:

1. Articulate and proper public service reforms can be set right the anomalies in the Nigerian Public Service, as painted in this study. Therefore, measures should be put in place in this direction to prevent undue interference in appointment, postings and promotions in the public service of Nigeria.
2. The autonomy of the civil service should be provided as it is the practice in the developed countries like the United Kingdom (U.K). Like the army, the civil service should be encouraged to be non partisan;
3. Installing political leadership with integrity and competence can ensure the protection of rights of citizens;

Editorial

4. Ethics and values should be taught at all levels of education in Nigeria as a way of orienting the people on the proper ethics and value system needed in the modern Nigeria;
5. In addition to the constitutional provision, every public sector organization must have a code of conduct. All employees should be made to sign an undertaking that they will comply with this code of conduct;
6. The Public Complaints Commission should be given more constitutional and moral powers to deal with cases arising from abuse of offices by public servant at all levels and the law courts should be more proactive in handling cases of abuse of office and should ensure firm and consistent application of appropriate sanctions when people violate the code of conduct.
7. Government should also embark on moral campaign to help inaugurate massive propaganda and campaign calling for disciplined behaviour and practices of moral values in both public and private life.
8. Leaders must lead by example and the led should follow suit.
9. It is important that the problems that make people behave unethically should be addressed. For example, because civil servants are poorly remunerated, cases of absenteeism of workers, ineptitude, and embezzlement of public funds abound. Therefore, public servants should be well paid and be encouraged to reciprocate such pay with high performance.

In the third paper titled, *Arable land resource conflict in Nigeria*, Akujobi, C.T. of the Department of Sociology, University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Rivers State, Nigeria, Ebitari, Stanley of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Federal University, Otueke, Bayelsa State, Nigeria and Amuzie, H.O. of the Department of Sociology, University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Rivers State, Nigeria addressed access to and conflicts arising from land resources. Employing the content analysis approach, the study x-rays these conflicts and their effects on general livelihood security, and concludes that the popular challenge of land tenure system is a security risk to

socio-economic and environmental development of the Nigerian state. It recommends urgent review of land use and arable land development policy.

In the fourth paper, titled *Behavioural decay and student success in tertiary institutions in Rivers State, Nigeria*, Ozuru, Henry N. (PhD) of the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Port Harcourt and Cyprian, Jackson of the OJL Research Centre (IRC), Choba, Port Harcourt adopted a survey research design to sample opinion of 100 staff on the subject matter. Data were analyzed using Kendall's tau_b correlation coefficient with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS, version 20). Findings showed that cultism significantly and strongly relates with academic performance. The study recommends amongst others that academic administrative teams should ensure effective implementation of laws that guide university student code of conduct.

We thank all our esteemed contributors and enjoin them not to flag in their zeal for research and publishing, especially now that rejection rate appears to be growing. We must all not relent in our determination to use research and publishing to confront abounding development challenges in developing countries for the development of the total man. We welcome contributions from across the globe in all cognate disciplines (see *Call for Articles*), as we reiterate our commitment to delay-free and efficient processing of all submissions and their subsequent professional and competitive publishing in hard copy and online.

Best regards.

Denis Nwachukwu Onwuka

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN NIGERIA: IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF INTENSIFICATION OF METEOROLOGICAL EVENTS AND ACCESS TO SAFE WATER

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Abstract

In Nigeria, climate change impacts sectors of the economy: agriculture and food security, water resources, human health, energy, recreation and tourism. The signature of climate change is also seen on extreme meteorological events, such as floods, droughts, heat waves, ocean surges, strong winds and storms. These strong weather events have been identified to be impacting strongly on the hydrological cycle and water catchment systems in Nigeria. This paper captured both evidences and impacts of these extreme weather events but especially floods, droughts and ocean surges and linked them to water supply and demand systems of Nigeria. Increasing frequency and magnitudes of floods, droughts and ocean surges are capable of compromising access to potable water both in terms of quality and quantity in the country.

Keywords: *Effects of climate change, Meteorological events, Access to safe water, Nigeria*

Introduction

There is almost a consensus among scientists and non scientists about the science, evidence and impact of climate change. The science of climate change has perhaps generated the highest interests in scientific research and the research world since 1988 when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) was formed. The IPCC has issued four Assessment Reports in 1990, 1995, 2001 and 2007 and numerous supplementary reports on some specific areas such as impact, mitigation, adaptation technology, ecology, forestry, social and economic aspects of climate change. All the assessment reports and other evidence point that climate change is very evident and the signatures of climate change on the world's cultural and natural systems are difficult to ignore. For example, we are living in a warmer world. The five warmest years since instrumental recording started in 1850 have been 1998, 2005, 2003, 2001 and 1995 (World Climate News, 2003). Eleven of the last twelve years (1995-2006) rank among the warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature (IPCC, 2007).

Impact of climate change on people and their supporting ecosystems across the world is strong. Climate change is now recognized as the greatest and most serious environmental challenge facing the world in the 21 century to the extent that global warming and climate change issues now top the global developmental agenda (Anver Chazi, 2000; Nwafor 2006). Climate change is already having differentiated impacts on the various sectors of the global economy especially agriculture, food security, human health, energy, water resources, recreation and tourism, finance, insurance and commerce. Climate change is also impacting on the various cycles, flows and processes that drive the various systems (such as the hydrological system) of our earth. For example, Tao, Yoko, Zawa, Hayashi and Lin (2004) observed that climate change is having a major impact on the hydrological cycle and consequently on the available water resources, the potential for floods and drought. Climate change is also implicated in the alterations of the hydrological cycle through the intensification of some meteorological events especially floods, storms, droughts, heat waves and frost formation.

In Nigeria, climate change affects the nature and characteristics of the freshwater resources on which Nigerians depend. The impacts vary among ecozones, exacerbating existing problems of water supply (NASPA-CCN, 2011). This paper is focusing on the effects of climate change on the intensification of floods and droughts in Nigeria and the resulting impacts on access to water for Nigeria and Nigerians.

The Study Area

Nigeria is located in West Africa (Fig. 1.1). It has total land area of 923,800 km². The country lies between 4°N and 14°N and 3°E and 15°E. It is bordered on the North East and West by Niger, the Cameroon and Benin Republic respectively. The Gulf Guinea forms the Southern boundary. It occupies about 14 percent of the land mass of West Africa. Nigeria has a population of 150 million (NPC, 2006). The total length of Nigeria's coastline from Lagos to Calabar is about 853km. The longest distance from North to South is about 1200km and from East to West is about 1200km (Nigeria State of Environment Report, 2009).

Nigeria is located in the tropics and temperature is high throughout the year. The mean daily temperature ranges between 32°C along the coast, 40°C in the north. Rainfall varies a lot but generally decreases from the coast to the North. Annual rainfall varies between 3500mm in the coast to less than 600mm in Sahel zone of Northern Nigeria (Nigeria and Climate Change: Road to COP 15, 2009) Nigeria is very vulnerable to climate change. It has a long coastline, which is vulnerable to ocean surge and coastal erosion; a large population that depends on rain-fed agriculture, wet and humid zones in the south that are vulnerable to floods and soil erosion and dry Sahel zone in the north that is already witnessing droughts, desertification and desert encroachment. Also the Nigerian nation does not have requisite skills, technologies and

resources to build strong responses to the impacts and likely impacts of global warming and climate change.

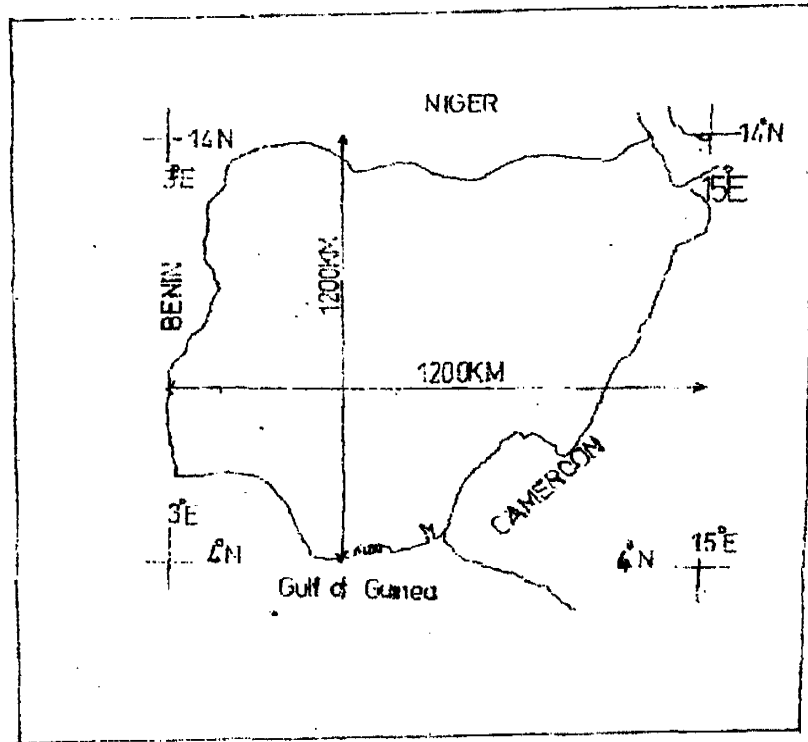


Fig 1.1: Area of Study

Materials and Method

Both primary and secondary data were collected for this study. Primary data included photographs of the 2012 super floods in Nigeria and personal observation. Secondary data include data on evidence of climate change in Nigeria, evidence of intensification of meteorological events especially floods and droughts in Nigeria in the last 12 years. Data on the present status of access to water and sanitation in Nigeria was also collected. Data collected were analyzed, and summarized and

presented using tables, charts and figures and descriptive words.

Evidence of Climate Change in Nigeria

Climate change is no longer a tale from distant lands. Many studies on the subject have been carried out by Nigerian researchers and scholars including Obasi (1996), Ojo (1998), Ayoade (2003) and Ajadike (2006, 2008). Nigerians are already observing that harmattans are becoming less obvious in terms of intensity of cold and associated dust. The timing of the harmattans has also changed. Instead of it reaching the Atlantic coast in December as it used to, it is now coming in March. Also the little dry season or (August break) is no longer observable in most parts of Nigeria. It is equally observed that the number of days with average temperature of over 45°C in the Sahel region around Maiduguri has significantly increased (Nwajiuba, 2011). Evidence of climate change in Nigeria has also been widely reported in the publications of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET). For example, both onset and cessation of rains have shown clear abnormalities in Nigeria especially between 1970 and year 2000 (Figs. 1.2a and 1.2b). The onset of the raining season between 1941 and 1970 was mostly normal except for isolated places (dark portions) around Sokoto, Maidugun, Owerri, Port Harcourt and Calabar (Figure 2a) But between 1971 and 2000 more than 80 percent of Nigeria (shaded portions) witnessed late onset of rains (Fig. 1.2b).

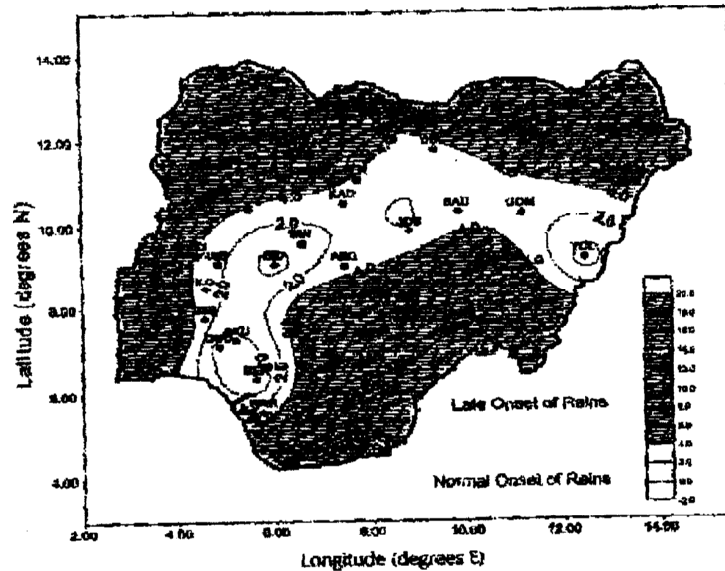


Fig. 1.2b Abnormal Onset of rainfall between 1970 and 2000
Source: Nigeria Climate Review Bulletin (2011).

Note: Cessation of rains between 1970 and 2000 have also shown significant departures from what was obtainable between 1941 and 1970.

Evidence of intensification of Meteorological Events in Nigeria

Evidence abounds about intensification of meteorological events in Nigeria as a result of global warming and climate change. For example, thunderstorms, hail occurrence, ocean surge, floods, droughts, heat waves have been observed to be intensifying both in magnitude and frequency of occurrence. But for the purposes of this study, only three events namely flooding, drought and ocean surge are chosen because of their direct impact on hydrological cycle, pollution of water, effects on water quantity and quality.

Intensification of Floods in Nigeria

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2001a) reported that extreme climate phenomena including floods and droughts would become severe and increasingly more frequent in Africa. In Nigeria, floods have not only become severe in terms of lives and property loss, they have become more frequent and cover more geographical areas of the country as well (Table 1.1). Figures 1.3a and 1.3b show the flooded village of Mmieta Anam, Anambra West L.G.A of Anambra State in the 2012 floods. People are seen moving to safety with their household property in boats.



Figs. 1.3a and 1.3b flooded parts of Mmieta village in Anambra West LGA

Table 1.1: Major Flood Disasters in Nigerian from 1998 to 2012

Date	Place	Occurrence	Agricultural and other losses
October 7, 1998	Many villages in Niger and Kwara States.	Floods from Kainji Dam	3.2 Hectare Rice Plantation of the Lower Niger River Basin Rural Development /Authority destroyed.
August, 1999	7 LGAs in Borno State	Wide-spread erosion	Farmlands lost. About 300 Farmlands submerged.
August, 1999	Parts of Jigawa and Yobe State	Floods	Rice, and Maize, farms destroyed
September 1999	Akure North, Owo Illaja, Ese Odo LGAs	Floods	About 1,000 hectares of farmlands destroyed
September, 1999	Ikere, Ado, Aramoko, Efon, Moba Illeje-Meje and Emure LGAs of Ekiti State	Floods and erosion	Farmlands washed away.
Between July 8 and August 24, 2007	11 LGAs, 108 villages	Devastated by floods with about 24 deaths	About 5, 787 farmlands and 13, 609 houses worth over N717.3 million were destroyed.
No clear date	Gwoza, Bama, Konduga and Kaga, Borno State.	River Yezeram overflowed its banks	Farmlands ravaged and houses destroyed along the river banks.
No clear date	Lokoja, Ibaji, Ida, Bassa and part of West Yagba, Kogi State	Worst flood in 20 years	More than 1,110 hectares of farmlands lost to floods
September, 2007	Lapai LGA of Niger State	Worst flood in 100 years	Five persons died, 1,000 house destroyed.
July 2011	Seven LGAs in Cross River State, namely: Calabar South Municipality Obubara, Biase, Yakurr, Ikom and Mpaaka	Persistent rainfall lasting for weeks	Houses were submerged, over 1060 farms destroyed and at least 500 persons were rendered homeless.
10 July, 2011	Lagos State	Torrential rain lasting for several hours	Parts of Agege, Mushim, Orile, Ajegunle, Agility and Owoede Buildings submerged and families were forced to evacuate. Many roads and streets flooded especially Ishaga in Surulere, Ago in Okota, Ipaga, Shasha and Parts of Victoria Island and Ikosi Ketu Road.
26 August, 2011	Ibadan, Oyo State	Torrential down pour that started about 5pm and lasted into the night	102 people died. One Oke lost six members of his household. Bridges were destroyed, many buildings especially those built with mud collapsed, electric cables pulled down and worst hit areas such as Eleyele, Agbowo, Oluyole Estate, Oke-Ayo, Odo-Ona, Apata were asked to evacuate. The University of Ibadan Prof. Isaac Adewole admitted that UI lost property estimated at 10 billion Naira.

Source: Adapted from Nigerian Meteorological Society Publication on Effects of Climate Change 1999 and Reported Floods incidents by some Newspapers in Nigeria.

In Ibadan, disastrous floods used to occur in a cycle of 10 years. For example, there were serious floods in the city in 1951, 1960, 1969, 1978, 1980, 1990 (NEST, 1991). But recently, Ibadan floods occur virtually every year with increasing fury and colossal damage to buildings and social infrastructure. Floods have been occurring in Nigeria for centuries, but the super floods of 2012 was the most disastrous in 80 years (as a comparable flood but not in terms of loss of lives and infrastructural damage was also recorded in 1932 (NIMET, 2012). The 2012 “super floods” that happened between July and September affected 33 states, 14 of the states very severely. In all, 256 local government areas, 3870 communities, about 7,705, 378 people were affected, about 363 people were reported killed and over 18,200 people sustained injuries. More than 618,000 houses were either destroyed or damaged (NIMET, 2012). Rising seas, ocean surge and strong storms contribute to the flooding and inundation of coastal zones and wetlands of Nigeria. Consequently, coastal zone fresh water sources are polluted by rising seas and ocean surges.

Intensification of Droughts in Nigeria

Drought is a prolonged absence or marked deficiency of precipitation. There are many types but this paper is focusing on two that are relevant to this work. Meteorological drought which is a prolonged deficit of precipitation and hydrological drought which is a below-normal stream flow, lake and groundwater levels (IPCC, 2007). According to the Human Development Report (2006), climate change is already affecting the Saheian region. Reduced rainfall and increase in the incidence of drought and greater volatility are among the current symptoms. Evidence of increasing drought in Nigeria especially in the Sudan and Sahelain zones include decreasing volume and discharge of many surface rivers, and streams, quick drying up of the rivers, decreasing rainfall, drying up and

decreasing yields of hand dug wells and motorized bore holes. But the most demonstrative evidence of drought in Nigeria's Sahel is the shrinking of Lake Chad. Today, the lake is about one tenth of the size it was about 40 years. Failed rains and drought have been identified as the major causes (Fig. 1.4). The shaded portions from 1963, 1973, 1987 and 2006 show the decreasing size of Lake Chad.

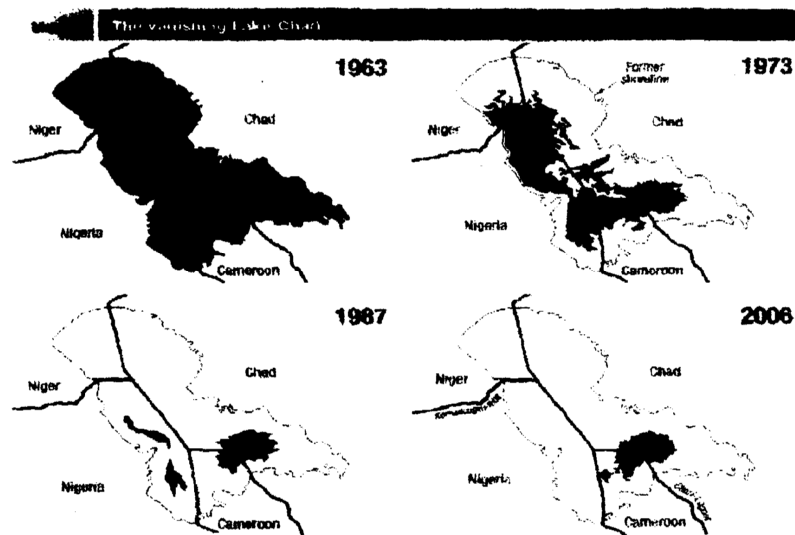


Fig. 1.4 : The shrinking and vanishing of Lake Chad
Source: Human Development Report (2006) pp 211

Current Status of Access to Water and Sanitation in Nigeria

Water is life, water is agriculture, water is sanitation, water is recreation and indeed water is everything for humanity. But access to water and sanitation is highly restricted for the developing countries of the world and Nigeria is not an exception. For example, the proportion of population having

access to safe water and improved sanitation between 1970 and 2010 is shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Proportion of Nigerians with access to safe water and improved sanitation

Indicator	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average	2015 Target
Proportion of Population having access to Safe water	54	54	62.11	64.21	66.25	57	60	60.9	49.1	55.8	58.9	NA	57.48	77
Proportion of population with improved Sanitation in percentage	39	42.9	42.4	49.4	49.8	38	33	33	42.9	53.8	51.6	NA	43.25	70

Source: Nigerian Millennium Development Goals Report (2010)

Table 1.2 shows that on the average, only 57.48% of Nigerians have access to safe water and 43.2 5% have access to safe sanitation. Also important is the source of water available for any given population. For example, only about 28 percent of Nigerians are serviced by pipe borne water and boreholes. More than 40 percent of Nigerians source their water from rivers (20%) and streams (32%) (Table 1.3). This fact has some implications for access to water in this era of intensification of floods and droughts in Nigeria.

Table 1.3: Water use patterns for available water sources

Sources	Percentage of All
Spring /Stream	32%
Hand dug well with apron	30%
Hand dug well without apron	27%
Rain	10%
River	20%
Pipe borne	14%
Bore hole	14%
Vendors	6%

Source: Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Programme cited in Nigerian State of Environment Report (2009)

The household distribution of safe water across the 36 states of 6Nigeria also show obvious serious shortages across the states.

Some states such as Sokoto, Akwa Ibom and Imo States have households of 82 percent, 79 percent and 76.6 percent respectively that have no access to safe drinking water (Table 1.4).

Table 1.4: Households with access to safe drinking water by state and by residence.

State	Safe	Unsafe	Total
Abia	51.7	48.3	100
Adamawa	44.8	55.2	100
A/Ibom	20.9	79.1	100
Anambra	39.7	60.3	100
Bauchi	48.7	51.3	100
Benue	30.5	69.7	100
Borno	50.7	49.3	100
C/River	35.7	64.3	100
Delta	68.2	31.8	100
Edo	72.5	27.5	100
Enugu	37.3	62.7	100
Imo	23.4	76.6	100
Jigawa	61.2	38.8	100
Kaduna	84.1	15.9	100
Kano	41.0	59.0	100
Katsina	67.7	32.3	100
Kebbi	63.2	36.8	100
Kogi	29.9	70.1	100
Kwara	73.4	26.6	100
Lagos	84.9	15.1	100
Niger	49.2	50.8	100
Ogun	64.9	35.1	100
Ondo	44.6	55.4	100
Osun	67.8	32.2	100
Oyo	81.3	18.7	100
Plateau	34.3	65.7	100
Rivers	36.5	63.5	100
Sokoto	18.0	82.0	100
Taraba	37.3	62.7	100
Yobe	47.2	52.3	100
Abuja(FCT)	75.5	24.5	100
Nigeria	49.9	50.1	100
Residence urban	79.5	21.5	100
Rural	39.1	60.9	100

Source: UNICEF (1995) (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) cited in Nigerian State of Environment Report (2009)

Discussion

Increasing floods caused by climate change is exacerbating access to water in Nigeria for the following reasons. First,

floods increase the discharge of silt and soluble clay materials into surface water and unprotected hand dug wells. Second, floods wash human faeces, sewage and animals droppings into streams and rivers and hence reducing their water quality.

Third, both domestic and industrial solid wastes are dislodged from the dump sites and from uncollected households by storm water and they end up polluting unsecured surface water and via seepage, ground water is polluted as well. Fourth, flood waters wash heavy metals such as mercury and lead into surface and ground water. For example, in 2010, lead from illegal mining operations in Zamfara state killed many people through the contamination of their water sources. Fifth, grease and spent oil are washed into drains by storm water during floods and the drains empty their effluents into streams and rivers.

Sixth, rising seas and surging oceans intrude their saline water into streams, rivers and wet lands hence lowering their water qualities. Seventh, during floods, soil spills are spread to wider areas and they make cleaning up operations more difficult and expensive.

Consequently more water bodies are exposed to petroleum products contamination. It should be noted that one of the major constituents of petrol is methyl tetra butyl ether (MTBE) which is a strong carcinogen.

Lastly, as droughts become more severe and as they occur with increasing frequency especially in the Sudan and Sahel regions of Nigeria, hand-dug wells, streams, lakes, earth dam retaining water and rivers dry up very fast because of drought which is usually marked by increasing temperature and increasing evaporation but decreasing precipitation and stream recharge as a result, the people and their livestock become subjected to water stresses and this has very serious implications for sustainable livelihood in the Sudan and Sahel regions of Nigeria.

Recommendations

- i. Governments at all levels should invest heavily in the provision of potable water to all Nigerians by sinking boreholes, building dams, harvesting of rainfall and surface water.
- ii. Water should be provided for people during emergencies such as flood disasters to reduce water borne diseases such as diarrhea and typhoid.
- iii. Municipal wastes should be disposed in secure landfills or controlled incinerations to reduce their contamination of surface and underground water especially during floods.
- iv. Human defecation in bushes, farms and other open places should be controlled through health and sanitation education and strict enforcement of sanitation and environmental laws of Nigeria.
- v. Artisanian mining especially those associated with heavy metals such as lead and platinum should be banned to reduce heavy metal pollution during floods.
- vi. Oil spills and illegal refineries especially in the Niger Delta cause untold hardship to the people of the Niger Delta who have to contend with heavily polluted water for their daily water needs and livelihoods. The polluter must pay principle should be adopted and payment must include the total restoration of water quality existing before the spills occurred.
- vii. Lastly, Nigeria should see climate change as a serious developmental challenge which can only be contained through comprehensive and smart mitigation and adaptation measures.

Conclusion

Nigeria water resources are exposed to two extreme weather events: floods in the humid south and droughts in the Sahelian north. These two meteorological events are predicted to occur even with greater severity and more frequently in the future because of global climate change. This is so because climate

change affects the hydrological cycle and in many ways influence the water resources supply and demand systems of Nigeria. Climate change is contributing to making access to water very critical for the people of Nigeria. This paper is saying that climate change with identified meteorological events especially floods, ocean surge and droughts will further compound the problem of access to potable water in Nigeria. More empirical studies are required to fully recognize the full implications of climate change on the water supply and demand systems of Nigeria. This paper is recommending the immediate commissioning of such detailed empirical studies in the different hydroecological zones of Nigeria.

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A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ETHICS AND VALUES IN NIGERIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

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Abstract

There are hues and cries about corruption in the public service in Nigeria. This study set out to analyse ethics and values in Nigeria's public service with a view to noting its strengths and weaknesses for more a result-oriented system. The study adopted descriptive research design. A combination of Deontology and Teleology theories were used for theoretical framework of analysis of secondary data obtained from reviewed theoretical and empirical literature relevant to the study. Results showed that ethics and value system in Nigerian public service is ridden with corruption, abuse of office, political interference and selfish interest, thereby entrenching inefficient and ineffective service delivery of the public service to the masses. The study, therefore, recommended overhauling the public service for efficiency.

Keywords: *Ethics and values, Public service, Work ineptitude*

Introduction

Hobbs (in Lee, 2003) states that any society that lacks rules and regulations and enforcement agencies to enforce such rules of conduct is primitive, brutish and nasty. No state in any part of the world would accept the posture of being in the state of nature where Thomas Hobbs says life is short and nasty. As a mark of advancement, countries, states,

organizations and families have a set of rules and regulations or principles guiding their relations and activities within and among themselves.

Nigeria, the most populous African nation, with a population of about 170 million people, comprising of about 250 ethnic configurations, is no exception to the changes taking place all over the world to ensure adequate ethical principles in governance and daily life. No wonder, the renowned philosopher, Heraclitus (cited in General Studies Handbook of Abia State University, Uturu, 1997), stated that change is the only thing permanent in any society.

The Nigerian Public Service is the pivot transformational institution in governance of the country. Because of its timeless responsibility of executing public policies and programmes, including rendering of essential services to the masses, the accomplishment of the above objectives is guided by ethical codes of conduct which are put in place to serve as a guide to public servants in the discharge of their duties. Public interest is intimately related to administrative decisions, giving them direction and meaning in all they do. These relationships involve moral duties and obligations on the part of the administrator, as well as ethics which is very crucial to the entire value system of public administrators.

The excitement among scholars in ethical issues and value system in Nigeria and other African countries is not unconnected to the fact that public service in this part of the world has been facing ethical crises manifested in wrong value systems, like absence of accountability, unethical behaviours and institutionalization of corruption. This perverted value system is what Agba et al (2013) referred to as “new forms of cutting corners or what can be described as bribery”.

One of the most important features of modern public service or large scale organizations is the existence of some forms of ethical principles and norms which ensure that standards are maintained and administrative powers are not abused by the public servants. Such

principles that provide ethical environment for the Nigerian public service as contained in the code of conduct for public service includes impartiality, meritocracy, honesty, loyalty, transparency, discipline, fairness, courtesy, co-operation, rules and regulations, etc.

Nigerian public service faces a serious treat arising from the problem of erosion of proper work ethics and value system. This has contributed to low productivity and ineffective service delivery to the masses. The expectations of the people on the state bureaucracy and the political class have been dashed because the people experience dishonesty instead of honesty from the public servants. Public service has become a means of acquiring ill-gotten personal wealth instead of service for public good. Integrity, accountability and courtesy have become old-fashioned in most public offices in Nigeria. Abuse of office and right of citizens has become the order of the day in public offices. These manifest in ministries, extra ministerial departments, legislatures, judicial offices, military, agencies, commissions, etc. Ezeani (2006) observed that zest of interest in ethical issues in the continent of Africa is because its public service faces ethical crises manifested in the pervasive absence of accountability, unethical behavior and institutionalization of corrupt practices. This view was corroborated by Agba et al (2013) who said that it is unfortunate that the principles contained in the code of conduct bureau has been abandoned in favour of institutionalization of acts of corruption as the norm of the day in public service and political life. Adebayo (2014) also maintained that the public service in Nigeria had the work ethics of transparency and accountability which are vital for effective service delivery and increased productivity thrown to the mud. The problem of the Nigerian public service is degeneration into a state of comma and it will take years to wake it up, if it is possible.

Rational observers have raised a series of questions concerning inefficient and ineffective service delivery by the public service:

- i. What are contributory factors to this unwholesome drift from the ethics and values guiding the public service? What is the future of Nigeria, How can the problems be tackled and what solutions can be proffered?
- ii. These and other important questions are what this study will address or answer in the process.

This study was undertaken in order to critically examine the extent to which public servants are abiding by the principles and its implications for the value system and productivity in the public service in Nigeria. The objectives of the study were:

1. To establish immediate and remote factors contributing to the pervasion of ethics and values in Nigerian public service;
2. To point out in clear terms the implications of unethical value system in the development of Nigeria;
3. To suggest ways of eradicating unethical behaviors in Nigeria public service; and
4. To suggest ways of improving service delivery in Nigeria through inculcation of the proper work ethics and value system.

The gains and benefits derivable from this study are both theoretical and empirical. Theoretically, the study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on ethics and value in the public service. Researchers will find the study as a useful guide. The study would help to shape the opinion of the public on the proper ethics and value of the public service. The study will help the government to identify and take practical steps in conducting further reforms that will lead to improved service delivery in the public service. It will give proper orientation to public servants on the expectations of the masses in terms of effective service delivery required from them. The study will also contribute to a drastic reduction of abuse of office by public office holders and increase the protection of the right of

citizens in official transactions. Nigerians in all spheres of life will learn to place premium on the proper moral value in their relationship with one another. This will enhance the value of honesty, integrity and accountability in public and private life. The cumulative effect will be proper orientation of the people on ethics and values acceptable in both public and private life, to lead to improved socio-political and economic development of Nigeria.

The time scope of the study is 1960 till date. Nigeria gained independence on October 1, 1960 and has been running its public service since then. Special emphasis was placed on the democratic regimes of 1999 till date. It is important to note that, although the study was basically concerned with the analysis of the public sector organizations, some private organizations were also taken into account.

An analytical review of conceptual, theoretical and empirical literature was attempted. The concepts include public service/administration, ethics, values, accountability, productivity, etc. Akpan (1982:47) describes public service as the body of men and woman employed in official capacity to perform the functions of government. The functions of modern government have necessarily gone far beyond the traditional one of maintaining of law and order, making and enforcing rules and regulations. Progress in modern governments means economic and social development and overall welfare of the people for the purpose of bringing greatest happiness to the greatest number of people.

Oyeneye et al (2006:100) defined public service as:

The arm of government whose primary responsibility is the implementation of government policies and programmes in accordance with the established rules and procedures. It includes not just the civil service but also political appointees as well as the police, employees of public corporations and armed forces. The

general term that embraces the officials of the civil service and other government departments and units is the public service.

Notably, public service or administration is the wheel that propels the machinery of government (Sharma *et al*, 2011). Public service and public administration are used interchangeably. This is because the two concepts according to White (1938:1) “Consist of all those operations having for their purpose the fulfillment and enforcement of public policy as declared by competent authority” To Dimock (1968), “Public Administration is concerned with “what” and “how” of “government”. The “what” is the subject matter, i.e. the technical knowledge of the field which enables the administrator to perform his task. The “how” is the technique of management, i.e. the principle according to which co-operative programmes are carried to success.

Although public service is concerned with implementation or execution of government policies, the process must follow certain basic principles or codes of conduct in order to avoid abuse and achieve efficiency and effective service delivery. This view was echoed by Agba *et al* (2013:1) who asserted that, “The public service of any country is a transformational because of its timeless responsibility of implementing public policies and programmes and rendering of services to the masses.” These goals are usually accomplished through the application of ethical codes of conduct which are provided to guide the conduct of civil servants in the course of discharging their duties.

According to Omisore and Adeleke (2015: 2), “Work ethics can simply be referred to as a set of principles relating to morals at work, especially as they apply to human conduct”. Much of the growing literature in the area of ethics, morality and public policy concerns the value that should be considered in attempting to select better policies. Drawing from earlier works of scholars like Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), John Stuart Mill (1806-1873),

contemporary scholars like Schelling (1981), Army (1984), Shaw (1991), Weiner and Vining (1992) have presented ethics as set of rules that defines right and wrong conducts. These ethical rules state when behaviour is approved and when it is considered unacceptable and wrong. In a broader sense, ethics also includes the process of:

- i. Making distinction between questions of fact and belief;
- ii. Deciding what moral principles apply to a situation; and
- iii. Deciding how issues are defined.

It reminds Nigerian public officials that no single value can provide adequate rationale for all decision making, rather moral principles and the value they represent are very important to ethics. Elaboration further on the the concept of ethics, Coulter (1996) asserts that “Ethics is a form of morality that is different in degrees”. Morality is society’s definition of right or wrong and it generally prevails throughout the society. On the other hand, ethics is an individual’s code of right or wrong which is determined by the person’s environment and position. Therefore, ethics is a code of right or wrong that may be relevant based on individual’s work environment.

The question of the relevance of ethics and values in public service is wise here, especially when the code of conduct for public officers are being grossly abused, and when officers who still dance to the tune of the rhyme are disadvantaged in social benefits. It becomes clear that it is a typology of the question asked in Platos Republic in Lee (1987: xxxiii), “What is the basis of social and moral obligation? Why should I be law abiding or moral if I do not feel like? More simply still, why should I be good?”

Ethics and values of profession concern the concept of justice. When an administrator does anything that undermines the possibility of a better relationship between the people he /she is dealing with and the

society as a whole, such public an officer is behaving unethically. For example, if a senior officer is charging fees for free government services or he/she takes kickbacks or diverts public fund for his/her personal use, such an individual is not only being unjust but he/she is also being unethical.

In ethical theory, good is first defined, and then the value is considered as a way of achieving that good. Ethics is concerned with moral duty and obligation. Aristotle (cited in Lee, 1987) stated that, “Ethics deals with conduct of human action”. Therefore, in public administration, ethics focuses on how the public administrator should act and behave in order to be responsible.

On the strength of the above, Boatwright (1997) identified two classifications of ethical concepts, teleological and deontological theories. The Teleological theory maintains that the rightness of an action is determined solely by the amount of good consequences it produces. Therefore, actions are justified by virtue of the end they achieve, rather than some feature of the action themselves. The concept of goodness is fundamental in teleological theory and concept of rightness and obligation, or duty is defined in terms of goodness. Teleological theory draws strength from the works of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) and John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) of the Utilitarian school which maintains that one’s obligation or duty in any situation is to perform the action that will result in the greatest possible balance of good over evil.

On the other hand Deontologists typically held that certain actions are right not because of some benefits to an individual or group but because of the nature of these actions or the rules from which they flow. Deontology theory mirror richly from the work of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) who believed that ethical reasoning should concern activities that are rationally motivated and should utilize precepts that apply universally to all human actions.

Another approach to ethical decision making in administration is the Virtue /Intuition approach, which relies on a person's understanding of what it means to be good person and to display the traits necessary to enact that understanding. These characteristics/value systems, according to Rosenbloom(2000), includes honesty, integrity, trust, worthiness, loyalty, fairness, accountability, civility, caring for others, respect for others, responsible citizenship, pursuit for excellence, self-discipline, etc.

It is important to note at this point even as Carol Lewis (cited in Dibie, 2000) had stated that there is no one approach to ethical decision making that is superior to another. Each approach has its strength and weakness.

The Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, The Civil Service Rules and Financial Regulations have set ethical standards for the Nigerian Public service. They include Discipline, Loyalty, Honesty, Courage, Courtesy, Co-operation and Tract. The fifth schedule of the 1999 Constitution provides that a public officer must not put himself in a position where his personal interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities. A public officer must not ask for or accept any property or benefit for himself or any other person on account of anything done or omitted to be done by him in the discharge of his duties.

Employment into the federal public service is to be based on the principle of meritocracy and should reflect the federal character principle. Promotion is based on a combination of merit and service. Every newly employed worker must be examined medically to ensure fitness on the job and courteous treatment of customers with respect.

The loyalty of the civil servants is an important ethical virtue for both the public and private organizations. Loyalty is a reference to an employee being faithful or always giving support to an institution or persons of superior status. Simply, it means the public officer is carrying out his instructions and assignments faithfully.

Sadly, earlier studies proved that the practice of ethics and values in the Nigerian public service is inappropriate to the Code of Conduct for public service. In their separate studies, Agara (2009), Agba et al (2013), Adebayo (2014), Kwaghga (2014) and Omisere and Adeleke (2015) made use of the content analysis through the use of both secondary and primary data arrived at the following conclusions:

- a) Corruption has eaten deep in the public service in Nigeria.
- b) Corruption in the public service has lead to organizational goal displacement.
- c) Most public officials form cliques and informal groups in pursuit of private interests in order to maximize benefits.
- d) Patronage appointments or what Joseph Roberts (cited in Okereke, 2001) referred to as Prebendalism, has taken preeminence over merit appointments in the public service.
- e) The virtue of honesty and integrity is fast disappearing in the public service in Nigeria.
- f) Accountability in the public service is gradually fizzling out.
- g) Abuse of citizen's right and privileges has taken over service to the people in Nigerian public service.

Irrespective of the divergences, theoretical literature reviewed agreed that ethics is a code of right or wrong that may be relevant based on individual's work environment. Ethics and values are codes of conduct that guide public officers in the discharge of its functions and duties in order to prevent him from abuse of office and making him more effective.

Empirical studies reviewed showed that the actions of public servants in Nigeria are incompatible with the ethics and values of public service as contained in the public service rules and the specifications of the Code of Conduct Bureau. Personal interest of public servants often

override public interest with the result that corruption and abuse of public trust have become endemic in Nigerian public service.

It is the contention of this study that there is gross abuse of the ethics and values in public service in Nigeria due to a lack of effective mechanism for the punishment of those found to have violated or overstepped the civil service rules and public service codes of conduct. Even the Public Complaints Commission whose duty it is to redress grievances arising from abuse of office of public servants has little or no constitutional power to place and enforce effective sanctions on erring officers. The law courts are not better due to the cash-and-carry nature of the Nigeria judicial system.

Conclusion

Having made use of documentary method to achieve the objective of analysing secondary data descriptively, and using content analysis and relevant official documents, this study has through inductive and deductive reasoning reached the following conclusions that ethics and values of public service in Nigeria are product of British colonial experience and long years of military dictatorship. These experiences had a negative influence on the ethics and value system in Nigeria public service because their motives were at variance with the principles of development administration which is the foundation modern Nigeria. The public service in Nigeria is trading the path of bribery and corruption which has led to gross abuse of the citizen right and poor service delivery to the masses. Ethics and value system needs fundamental overhaul through an articulate public service reforms to meet the challenges and realities of development and governance of the modern Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. Articulate and proper public service reforms can be set right the anomalies in the Nigerian Public Service, as painted in this study. Therefore, measures should be put in place in this direction to prevent undue interference in appointment, postings and promotions in the public service of Nigeria.
2. The autonomy of the civil service should be provided as it is the practice in the developed countries like the United Kingdom (U.K). Like the army, the civil service should be encouraged to be non partisan;
3. Installing political leadership with integrity and competence can ensure the protection of rights of citizens;
4. Ethics and values should be taught at all levels of education in Nigeria as a way of orienting the people on the proper ethics and value system needed in the modern Nigeria;
5. In addition to the constitutional provision, every public sector organization must have a code of conduct. All employees should be made to sign an undertaking that they will comply with this code of conduct;
6. The Public Complaints Commission should be given more constitutional and moral powers to deal with cases arising from abuse of offices by public servant at all levels and the law courts should be more proactive in handling cases of abuse of office and should ensure firm and consistent application of appropriate sanctions when people violate the code of conduct.
7. Government should also embark on moral campaign to help inaugurate massive propaganda and campaign calling for disciplined behaviour and practices of moral values in both public and private life.
8. Leaders must lead by example and the led should follow suit.

9. It is important that the problems that make people behave unethically should be addressed. For example, because civil servants are poorly remunerated, cases of absenteeism of workers, ineptitude, and embezzlement of public funds abound. Therefore, public servants should be well paid and be encouraged to reciprocate such pay with high performance.

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ARABLE LAND RESOURCE CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Access to land resources has remained crucial to livelihood and household sustenance. The control of arable land resource invariably results in conflicts and concomitant food crisis and youth development challenges in Nigeria. In addition adverse effects of individual and community land disputes, the recent conflicts between the Fulani herdsmen and indigenous farm owners have resulted in destruction of lives and crops. Employing the content analysis approach, the study x-rays these conflicts and their effects on general livelihood security, and

concludes that the popular challenge of land tenure system is a security risk to socio-economic and environmental development of the Nigerian state. It recommends urgent review of land use and arable land development policy.

Keywords: *Arable land, Resource conflicts, Land tenure*

INTRODUCTION

Resource conflict amongst farmers and herders has increased in recent time in the middle belt and southern zones of Nigeria. Policy gaps and underdevelopment of grazing lands have been blamed for this worsening arable land resource conflict. Land ownership and utilization have directly and indirectly defined the dimensions of most agricultural land conflicts, which are becoming fiercer and increasingly widespread in Nigeria, largely due to increasing production activities for the increasing human population (Gefu and Kolawole, 2005; Fasona and Omojola, 2005).

Mutual fear of deep-rooted hostility exists among the Fulani herdsmen and host farmers. The age-old problem escalated in the last decade and has assumed a violent dimension whereby communities are being internally displaced, lives and property are being lost while hunger and insecurity have become the order of the day. The conflicts occur when Fulani herders move into non-Fulani homelands with their cattle. This usually leads to the destruction of farm crops. Thus, the herders provoke their victims to acts of communal and individual resistance (preventing entry into farms, killing or stealing cattle, or poisoning fields). In response, the herders wage deadly attacks on host communities.

One of the recent proposals meant to address this problem is in form of a bill at the National Assembly of Nigeria seeking to establish grazing routes and reserves for Fulani herdsmen in all the states of the country. This paper focuses on the legislative impediments to provision of sustainable grazing routes and reserves in Nigeria. Specifically, the paper

sought to (1) identify the link between arable land, resource conflict and underdevelopment (hunger, gender insecurity, resource injustice, unemployment and unproductive manpower population) of Nigeria; (2) examine the land reform and grazing bill policy and its role in addressing resource conflict and Fulani herdsmen crisis in Nigeria; and (3) determine the relationship between resource conflict and underdevelopment of rural economic livelihood in Nigeria.

Theoretical Review

The Eco-violence Theory

Homer-Dixon (1999) developed the theory of eco-violence which seeks to explicate the relationship between environmental factors and violent conflicts. Its basic assumptions are (a) decrease in the quality and quantity of renewable resources, population growth, (b) resource access acting singly or in various combinations to increase the scarcity, for certain population groups, of cropland, water, forests, and fish, thereby reducing economic productivity, both for the local groups experiencing the scarcity and for the larger regional and national economies, and (c) the affected people may migrate or be expelled to new lands, thereby triggering ethnic conflicts when they move to new areas, while decreases in wealth cause deprivation conflicts (Homer-Dixon, 1999:30).

Competition over scarce ecological resources has been aggravated in contemporary times owing to the impacts of climate change, which has exacerbated ecological scarcity across the world (Blench, 2004; Onuoha, 2007), thereby engendering violent conflicts. Therefore, the theory offers insights into the nature and dynamics of the arable land, resource conflict and underdevelopment indications in Nigeria. The pressure over arable land and the attendant resource conflicts get worse amidst ever shrinking resources, livelihood crisis, imminent policy deficiencies on grazing and pastoral governance by Nigerian leaders. Increasing population growth

rate has continued to exert great pressure on available land resources with varying environmental and socio-economic implications (Dietz, Ruben and Verhagen, 2001; Tarhule and Lamb, 2003; Fiki and Lee, 2004).

Farmer-herdsmen conflict has remained the most preponderant resource-use conflict in Nigeria (Ajuwon, 2004; Fasona and Omojola, 2005). The necessity to provide food of crop and animal origin, as well as raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever growing demands, has exerted more pressure on land (Nyong and Fiki, 2005). The competition between these two agricultural land user-groups, however, has often times turned into serious overt and covert manifestation of hostilities and social friction in many parts of Nigeria. The conflicts have demonstrated high potential to exacerbate the insecurity and food crisis particularly in rural communities where most of the conflicts are localized, with reverberating consequences nationwide.

According to de Haan (2002), destruction of crops by cattle and other property (irrigation equipment and infrastructure) by the pastoralists themselves are the main direct causes for conflicts cited by the farmers, whereas burning of rangelands and fadama and blockage of stock routes and water points by crop encroachment are important direct reasons cited by the pastoralists. Ingawa, Ega, and Erhabor (1999) reported that the key underlying causes of farmer-herdsmen conflict in Nigeria are:

- Changing resource access rights, whereby traditional access rights to communal grazing and water resources are being obstructed by the individual tenureship of arable farmers. This is particularly severe on the traditional trek routes, which become favorite cropping sites because of their better soil fertility resulting from the concentration of animal manure from the trekking herds in these areas. Within the fadama areas, this is exacerbated by the fragmented nature of the crop plots, which makes prevention of animals straying in the crop plots difficult.

Akujobi, Ebitari and Amuzie – Arable land conflict in Nigeria

- Inadequacy of grazing resources, as increasing crop cultivation (and increasing commercialization of the crop-residues) and poor management of the existing grazing reserves have resulted in a significant reduction in available livestock feed resources, in particular in the Northern States. Moreover the high value crops introduced by NFDP (tomatoes and onions) produce almost no crop-residues for livestock feeding. Finally, the regulation that twenty percent of the fadama would need to be set aside for grazing (**National Agricultural Policy, 1988**) has not been adhered to.
- Decline in internal discipline and social cohesion, as the adherence to the traditional rules regarding grazing periods, and the authority of the traditional rulers is breaking down. This is exacerbated by increased rent seeking of the formal and traditional authorities in managing resource access.

The causes and effects of farmer-herdsmen conflict have attracted considerable theoretical and empirical analyses, but conflict actors and victims' coping mechanisms have not received sufficient attention in the literature (**Adisa, 2011b**). **Bob et al. (2008:28)** state that inequality is often a consequence of political, economic and social processes that concentrate resources in certain hands at the expense of others. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the vast majority of the black population have limited access to land ownership and related natural resources, resulting in high levels of vulnerability and resultant conflicts over land (**Bogale et al. 2006; Rugege et al. 2007**). Pastoralists usually graze over areas outside farm lands, and these have been accepted to be the norm from time immemorial. Their movements are opportunistic and follow pasture and water resources in a pattern that varies seasonally or year-to-year according to availability of resources (**FAO, 2011**). The patterns of movement may be controlled by seasonal climate variations. However, increase in population, drying of

waterholes, shifting in rainfall pattern leading to drought as a result of the changing climate affects both sectors of agriculture. At the same time, household agricultural production systems are becoming more and more integrated into the global economy, thereby increasing the demand and pressure need of arable land values. These, coupled with the ineptitude of arable land governance and the increase widespread of economic hardship creates avenue for resource conflicts. Both customary and statutory land management systems are often not responding adequately to the tenure insecurity these changes bring (Djire et al., 2014).

Extensive livestock production in the form of pastoral livestock keeping is among the most suitable means of land use in arid areas of Africa because of its adaptability to highly variable environmental conditions (McCarthy et al., 2000). Livestock here signifies cattle, sheep and goats. In Nigeria, most pastoralists do not own land but graze their livestock in host communities (Awogbade, 1987). While a few have adopted the more sedentary type of animal husbandry, the increasing crises between farmers and pastoralist presupposes that grazing is a major means of animal rearing in Nigeria. The sedentary type of animal husbandry also proves to be more expensive, difficult to manage and inefficient for the rapid growing market of an ever increasing populations like Nigeria. Pastoralism remained the most ancient trade that is still strong and self-provisioning. While many pastoral regions are the focus of current farmer-pastoralist conflict studies, the long history of sustainability and resilience evidenced by these cultures and their contribution to the economy is of great interest. In Nigeria, there is a large proportion of the population involved in herding and are making a significant contribution to the economy. The groups of people that are actively involved in pastoral activities in Nigeria are the Kanembu, Kwoya, Manga, Fulbe (Fulani) and the Shuwa Arabs. The Fulbe are the largest owners of livestock accounting for about 90% of the nation's stock, contributing one third of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 3.2% of the national

Akujobi, Ebitari and Amuzie – Arable land conflict in Nigeria

GDP (Nuru, 1984; Fabusoro and Oyegbami, 2009). The Nigerian cattle market generates only 6.8 billion USD of a potential 20 billion USD annually due to local strifes and inability of government to fully recognise the industry (Okello et al., 2014).

Pastoralism is economically viable to the extent that it contributes significantly to the economy of many developing countries despite continued underinvestment (Hatfield and Davies, 2006). It contributes largely to the growth of local economies, and a cumulative contributor to the nation's GDP and plays a major role in providing on-demand protein to the wider population. In this part of the world, where inland fish is meagre and offshore fishing have not been well explored to provide sea food as part of a diet, meat, milk as well as butter are the major sources of protein. In addition, thousands of Nigerians make a daily living from the sale, transport, processing and marketing of livestock products that include meat, milk, butter, hides and skins, bones and as ploughing power to farmers. In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) alone, 4,000 goats and over 400 cattle supplied by the Fulbe are slaughtered every day (Okello, 2014). In Yola town, north-east of the country, over 160 cattle, 600 sheep and 450 goats supplied by the Fulbe are slaughtered every day (informant interview). Cattle owners are the only people paying the Jangali (per head cattle levy) to the government since prior to independence (Adebayo, 1995). This tax, being an additional taxing system imposed by the British colonial system still exists (Okello et al., 2014). There is no doubt that the economic importance of pastoralist is significant to the Nigerian economy. Hence, arable land resource conflict between the farmers and pastoralist require a proactive policy action which the paper tends to examine.

Causes and consequences of farmer-pastoralist conflict

Past conflicts were solely due to overlap of farmlands with cattle routes, where farmers grow crops on the routes. But recently, this conflict has

escalated, taking another dimension of ethnic and religious undertone with little effort from government or community leaders at addressing them.

John (2014) studied the predicaments of the pastoralists and farmers and the true stories behind their conflicts and how these can be resolved. His results show the existence of one-sided reporting by the media, research articles and interested parties. Majority of those reports tend to highlight and report cases in which the pastoralist faulted farmers and tend to ignore the other side of the stories or even their losses (John, 2014). This appears to aggravate the situation and adds to the speculation and allegations of the pastoralist. Other studies show farmers encroachment on cattle routes is the real cause (Nformi et al., 2014). These mystify who is wrong and how these conflicts can be addressed. Ethnic jingoists and politicians have been benefitting in these strives and without doubt; have succeeded in creating a divide between the farmers and pastoralist, especially in communities that are less educated. Leaders at the Federal, State, and Local Governments and even at community levels become perplexed and ruminate on how these issues can be resolved.

Farmers and pastoralist in many localities and different countries make their livelihood within the same geographical, political, and socio-cultural conditions which may be characterized by resource scarcity (Braukämper, 2000) or political inequality (Bassett, 1988). Farmer-pastoralist conflicts have been associated with the conflict of land resource use exacerbated by dwindling resources (Blench, 2004). Some researchers have linked this crisis to the theory of eco-violence (Okoli and Atelhe, 2014), where environmental factors and exploitation of scarce resources leads to conflict and violence. This may explain the dwindling grazing resources (land, pasture etc.) and poor management of existing grazing reserves (Adisa, 2012) as culpable. In addition, the population is dynamic and ever increasing compared to land that is relatively static. The population growth rate of Nigeria per year is 3.2% (National Population Commission, 2012). Therefore, more and more people will continue to compete over arable land resource. Other researchers (Okoli et al., 2014; Odoh and Chigozie, 2012; Abbass, 2012) relate the causes of conflict to the global climate change and the contending desertification and aridity that has reduced arable and grazing lands, forcing pastoralist to move southwards in search of pasture for their livestock. Climate change-induced rainfall shifting patterns/amount and desertification reduces crop lands, and farmers have to follow these patterns, leading to overlap on grazing lands. The Fulbe herders in Nigeria, for example are faced with rapidly vanishing grass, forcing them to switch from the Bunaji cattle breed, which depends on grass, to the Sokoto Gudali, which readily browses (FAO, 2001). The pastoralists are also competing with large-scale agricultural schemes that narrow the grazing lands. The use of tractors, herbicides and fertilizers have revolutionized agriculture in the country leading to more and more grazing lands being farmed extensively (Iro, 2010). As farmlands increase to the detriment of grazing lands, animals can easily veer into farmlands and destroy crops.

Land acquisition by capitalist farmers exacerbates the upsurge of conflict as pastoralist can no longer find where to pass let to talk of where to stay (Abbass, 2012). Changing access rights as traditional communal property are being replaced by private ownership (Adisa, 2012). It is common to see that Burtalis (cattle pathways) close to cities do not exist anymore as houses and filling (petrol/gas) stations have taken over their places. Cattle now have to compete with motorist to the only path that is tarred road. There are many other predominant causes. Blockage of waterholes by farmers and fishermen, crop damage by pastoralist livestock and reprisal attacks on pastoralist by sedentary farmers when ethnic or religious disputes occur somewhere else (Umar, 2002; Abbass, 2012; Audu, 2014). Also, allocation of grazing lands as government layouts without compensating the pastoralist, breakdown of law and order and taking side by local rulers or Judges responsible for dispute resolution (Rasak, 2011; Fabusoro and Oyegbami, 2009). Others are gradual decline of social cohesion, ethnocentric and religious intolerance of leaders who are themselves sedentary farmers and conflict of cultures (Abbass, 2012; Bello, 2013). Hence, it is important to note that these conflicts have direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of those involved. They also disrupt and threaten the sustainability of pastoral production and agriculture in West Africa (Moritz, 2010). These conflicts reinforce circles of extreme poverty and hunger, and destroy social status, food security and affect mostly the most marginalized groups that include women and children. This affects education of children leading to obstacles in their development and mass displacement. Consequentially, this debilitates the once mutually existing farmer-pastoralist relationships. This awful situation becomes worst, especially when either the farmer or the pastoralist is categorized into a group relating to religion, tribe or region. Abbass (2012) warned that the disharmony in pastoralism and sedentarism reflect enhanced sedentarisation and increased pastoralism leading to constant conflict with the agrarian societies.

Some farmers practicing mixed farming attests that their animals have in one way or another affected other farmers, likewise sedentary pastoralists were in one way or the other affected by farmers (Nformi et al., 2014). This shows that the issue of farmer-pastoralist conflict is more or less shared problem. Therefore, this may not warrant isolation of farmers or pastoralists into ethnic or regional groupings for the sake of levying blames on any as the case may be. **Blench (2010)** observed that judicial commissions set up to handle conflict issues do not yield any effective action. Both farmers and pastoralists are in dire need to settle these conflicts preferably by the customary institutions rather than the Courts. Even though, many of these conflicts are settled outside courts through the customary institutions, a lot of people are not aware of the existence of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The ADR is formal and centres are provided within cities and towns. The arbitrators are professionals at law and cases are solved fairly quickly outside the courts. In Nigeria, the ADRs are established by Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Cap. A 18 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (2004).

Review of grazing reserves

The Land Use Act of 1978 has granted equal rights and opportunities to Nigerians to live in any part of the country un-deterred and regards all citizens as Nigerians and not Natives, unlike the previous Land Tenure Act of 1962 that did not spell this out (**Rasak, 2011**). According to this law, the Federal government has the capacity to redraw the boundaries between cattle routes, range lands and farmlands accordingly and envisage co-existence of various groups. Furthermore, the Nigerian Grazing Reserve Act of 1964 was passed for the purpose of accessing grazing lands to the Pastoralists, thereby encouraging sedentarisation and addressing conflict with a plan to improve productivity and social amenities (Awogbade, 1978; Ibrahim, 2012). This, in broader sense was expected to address constraints facing the cattle market and disease control

(Ingawa et al., 1989). However, even though this law was passed, very little implementation was observed. Looking at the impending farmer-pastoralist conflict and a reduced cattle production, in which Nigeria imports about 23% of cattle from the neighboring Sahel countries, the government again enacts the National Agricultural Policy of 1988. The law stipulates that a minimum of 10% of the national territory that is 9.8 million acres be allocated to grazing reserves. However, only 2.82 % was acquired out of 313 reserves (CIEL, 2006; Ibrahim, 2012). The most recent attempt to establish grazing routes and reserves across the 36 states and the FCT was the National Grazing Route and Reserve Commission bill of 2011 (Kumolu, 2014). On 3rd July 2012, a bill titled ‘The National Grazing Route and Reserve Bill’ was presented to the Nigerian Senate for deliberation (Daily Trust, 2012). The bill however, state of the Federation. The inability of the upper house of assembly and the government to promulgate a law establishing grazing reserves raises doubt on the government’s commitment to finding a lasting solution to the conflict. It also raises questions on the government’s failed to scale a third reading as the Senators were divided over whether the Federal Government was constitutionally empowered to create grazing reserves and stock routes in any commitment to reduce her dependency on oil, and working towards post-oil Nigeria, since her oil reserves may last only up to the year 2053 based on 2012 production rate (World Bank, 2012b).

Sedentarisation is another method used by governments to resolve the farmer-pastoralist conflict. However, RECANIGER (2009) shows that pastoral systems are 20% more productive than sedentary animal rearing. The reasons are that sedentarisation require intensive maintenance of field bio-mass to avoid depletion. Of course, even governments in developed countries would find it difficult to provide basic requirements that will encourage pastoralists to settle in designated areas. Several researches have been conducted to determine causes and effects of farmer-pastoralist conflicts. However, limited research has been carried out on the expansion

of farmlands and the dwindling pastoral land area, which are the principal causes of conflict. This study intends to build upon the research conducted by Gefu and Gilles (1990), who comparatively studied and analysed changes in land uses meant for grazing and crop production in Nigeria. Their results showed that within a period of 35 years (1951-1986), land primarily meant for livestock grazing diminished by 41.8%, while the number of livestock almost doubled. Such rapid change in land uses has set stage for a land use conflict between pastoral land use and other land uses in Nigeria. Against the backdrop of the above this paper examines the argument that arable land resource conflict is the major cause of farmer-pastoralist underdevelopment and livelihood insecurity in Nigeria.

Impact of resource conflict on livelihood development in Nigeria

- Global Terrorism index (GTI: 2015) which shows that two countries, Iraq and Nigeria, account for 53 per cent of all deaths from terrorism in 2014.
- In the case of Nigeria it noted that in 2013, Fulani militants killed 1,229 people in 2014, up from 63 in 2013 owing to ongoing conflicts over access and control of land between the semi-nomadic Fulani herdsmen and farmers in north-eastern Nigeria.
- According to Fasona and Omojola in 2005, conflicts resulting from cattle grazing actually accounted for 35% of all reported crises between 1991 and 2005 in Nigeria (Adekunle and Adisa 2010). The North Central states of Taraba, Nasarawa, Plateau, and Benue have also been identified as the most affected areas in the country (McGregor 2014; Nigeria Watch Newsletter 2014).
- Farm land conflict is not only affecting farmers' income but also misfortune the whole development of a country. Whenever there is farm land conflict among farmers it is obvious that their agricultural productivity decreases from time to time that is a threat for their

livelihood. Agricultural productivities hampered highly and shrink by the farm land conflicts (Sekeris, 2010).

These are not the only economic crisis of farmers, but also they are vulnerable to different unnecessary expenditures in time of accusation because of land conflict. They are expected to cover legal counselor costs, transport costs, personal living costs, material costs and others that weaken their income. Even though farmers spend all these costs to win their case, sometimes they can be losers which demoralize them in addition of their cost crisis. Against the backdrop of the above, resource issues have maintained chronicles of violent conflict around Nigeria and Africa to be precise.

Glossary of recent cases of arable land, resource conflict and underdevelopment in Nigeria

- As at 31 May 2014, a total of 27 deaths were recorded for 2014 from 8 reported incidents in the months of January (Oyo and Abuja), February (Delta), March (Taraba, Benue, and Ebonyi) and May (Kaduna). The highest number of cases was in March (4), and the highest number of fatalities (10) was in Taraba, also in March.
- Also, scores of persons have been reportedly killed in the Fulani herdsmen invasion of Ukpabi-Nimbo in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State ([Vanguard Newspaper](#) apr 25, 2016).
- On 4th March, 2016, Agatu people in Benue state were reported to have triggered crisis by Killing over 10,000 cattles of the Fulani Community and the Fulani herdsmen in turn,were reported to have killed hundreds of Agatu people. Similarly, fifteen people were reportedly killed and eighteen others injured in Nwokyo, Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State following another attack by Fulani herdsmen numbering over 300 and dressed in military uniforms. On the average,40 houses were burnt and properties worth several millions of naira were

destroyed. Infact, the only Millennium Development Goal (MDG) project in the area was destroyed in the process (<https://www.naij.com/64564.html> - *Tessy Igomu*).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The movement of pastoralist from one area of the country to another is usually caused by the increasing demand for fresh grazing grounds especially during draught period, when the pastoralists move southwards because of the availability of pasture. In most cases, the pastoralists do encounter problems with the local people because farmers' crops were being destroyed by their cattle (Olaleye et al, 2010). This accordingly have worsened resource conflict patterns and can be said to even grow more complex if not duly addressed by legislative action that will contain and manage grazing process in a way it won't metamorphose into another ethno-religious war

The paper thus contends that most of the underdevelopment challenges and resource curse arguments of the Nigerian state is a product of arable land resources mismanagement and underdevelopment politics by the political class of our nation. Hence, there is poor political will by the government to strengthen its legal and constitutional structures above personal and ethnic consciousness that is still a clog to wheel of our national and human development in Africa.

The finding of this research effort shows that the pattern of resource conflict has taken some dominant relationship between the Fulani herdsmen and arable farmers in the southern Nigeria. This situation has resulted to incessant bloody conflict between the two interest groups in these regions. Our findings thus indicate that, in Nigeria, the level of institutional failure on the part government to promote people-centred bills in order to accommodate, mediate and resolve the lingering differences between concerned interest is still at infancy and would most likely

implode into a lethal war that will be both expensive and devastating for the government to handle if not given the desired proactive responses.

CONCLUSION

The paper concludes that conflicts associated with arable land politics and resource injustice are some of the most profound issues perverting attendant socio economic predicaments of our present day development uncertainties in Africa.

The causes of most of these conflicts have been diverse, and more specific to the backdrops of policy and institutional weakness of the African governance and leadership towards rural economic development.

That the ineptitude in conflict management of arable land justice, resource governance, pastoralist, and sustainable rural economic development in Africa presents untold challenges to agricultural development and food security in the region.

The study concludes that the popular challenge of land tenure system and access to land for commercial production of agricultural resources is a security risk to socioeconomic and environmental development of the Nigeria State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the foregoing submissions, the study recommends that:

- There is need for conscious and active policy drive by government to review land use policy, agricultural and pastoral policies, as well as peace and conflict management policies.
- Policy efforts should be increased on resolving all arable land and resource conflict interests and to specify clear boundaries for peaceful coexistence among groups, livelihood security and economic development of Africa.

Akujobi, Ebitari and Amuzie – Arable land conflict in Nigeria

- Arable land resource management should be encouraged through resilient policy structures that will address complexities arising from limitations and imbalances of arable land conflict in Africa.

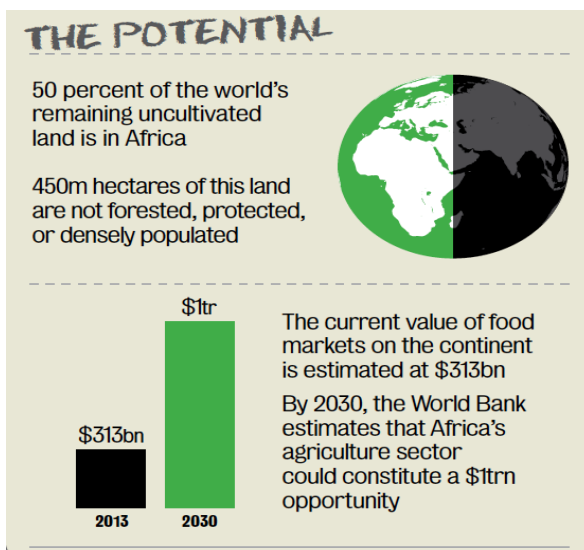
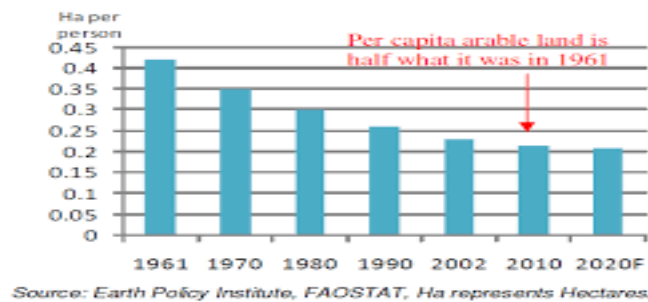


Figure 13: World Arable Land Per Person 1961-2020F



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BEHAVIOURAL DECAY AND STUDENT SUCCESS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study adopted a survey research design with a sample size of 100 academic staff from universities in Rivers State and data were analyzed using kendall's tau_b correlation coefficient with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS, version 20). Findings showed that cultism significantly and strongly relates with academic performance. The study recommends amongst others that academic administrative teams should ensure effective implementation of laws that guide university student code of conduct.

Keywords: *Behavioural decay, Deviant behaviour, Academic performance, Tertiary institutions, Nigeria*

Introduction

Human actions and way of life has been a matter of critical discourse over hundreds of decade ago by free thinker and great Philosophers like Aristole who first used the term, ethics, to describe a field of study

developed by his mentors – Socrates and Plato. These Philosophers attempted to offer a rational answer to the question of how humans should best behave (Aristotle, 1997).

Moreover, Hornby (2010), stated that behaviour is entrenched in all areas of life. For instance, the term behaviour is transparent in Psychology, Anthropology, Education, Economics, Marketing, Sociology etc. Same study noted that behaviour signifies the way someone acts especially towards other people which also portrays the way a student, a farmer, a footballer, an animal, a plant, a chemical etc behaves or functions in a particular situation.

Everyone has a certain quality known as character that one portrays which could be used for distinction and identity. The word "*character*" was derived from a Greek word "*charaktêr*" which implies a mark placed upon a coin and sometime, it became known as a point by which one item can be differentiated by another (Timpe, 2007).

Further, Campbell and Bond (1982), proposed and outlined major sources that affects character and moral development - heredity, early childhood experience, modeling by important adults and older youths, peer influences, the general physical and social environment, the communications media, the teachings of schools and other institutions, and specific situations and roles that elicit corresponding behavior.

However, these sources identified by Campebell and Bond since 1980s shows that humans' actions are made out of a combination or single source(s) which could either result to acceptable or non acceptable behaviour. For instance, the environment students find themselves, the friends they follow, the media they listen to and the lecturer taking them on a course may be traced to significantly contribute towards students' behaviour within and outside campuses.

Hence, the authors proposed the following model to illustrate further on factors that could alter human behaviour at any given time. In context of paper, our behavioural decay model is:

Ozuru and Cyprian – Behavioural decay and student success

BD =f (C,DEV, E)

Where:

BD= Behaviour Decay

DEV= Deviance

C= Character

E= environment controlling both C and DEV.

Behaviour becomes abnormal if a person deviates from the norms of the society (Nwankwo, et al., 2010). Significantly, a type of behaviour in the society may not be acceptable or may seem as anti-social if these three criteria are met as a member of the society, his or her behaviour does not allow him or her to effectively function with other member of the society; where the behaviour deprives him/her the opportunity to meet his or her own needs, and the behaviour forms a negative effect in the well being of others (Aboh, et al., 2014). Behaviours and actions constituting immorality in our tertiary institutions in Rivers State clearly is tied to cultism, exam malpractices, sexual abuse/harassment, rape, student unrest, lack of respect, character decay, drug abuse, untrust worthiness, obscene/indecent dressing etc. These actions lead to bad character-the combination of qualities in a person or place that makes them different from others.

Jekayinfa (2013), noted that tertiary educational system is seen to make a fundamental contribution to the future of any country and plays a vital role in country's intellectual, economic, cultural and social development as it develops our future professional workforce, produces future leaders, provides jobs, drives much of our economic and regional success, and facilitates cultural and trade links with other countries.

It becomes crucial to study the behaviour of students within and outside the school campuses and how academic environment contribute to their attitude towards their society life. Generally, attitudes are positive or negative feelings developed by an individual towards a person, place, thing or event. In this regard, if a student develops a positive attitude towards an institution, the tendency to follow ethical standards will be minimal and this may impact on his/her academic success. Hence, this study seeks to empirically investigate the impact of behavioural decay and student's success of tertiary institutions in Rivers state.

The general consensus in the award of a degree entrenched in every tertiary institution of learning statement: "The degree is awarded both in character and learning" has become questionable, and as such has become a problem to both the students and the society. The question of whether to place more value on the certificate or on the character of a student has posed a challenge to Nigerian societies. Therefore, provision of better educational system that could create a balance between students' social and economic wellbeing becomes significant for the achievement of academic success. The aim of the study is to empirically, investigate the impact of behavioural decay on students' success of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Theoretical Foundations

Merton's Anomie and Strain Theory

Robert Merton's paradigm of social structure and instability has been widely regarded as a valuable analytical framework, especially in the study of crime, deviance and theoretical discussions ever since his first presentation in 1983. The Anomie concept suggests that biological explanations of deviant behaviour are inadequate to explain social reality and that, instead, structural conditions should be regarded as what induces

Ozuru and Cyprian – Behavioural decay and student success

deviation from prescribed patterns of conduct (Featherstone and Deflem, 2003).

The first sociological use of the term “*Anomie*” is usually attributed to Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) as one of the founding fathers of sociology in his book “*Division of Labor in Society*” as at 1893. Anomie refers to a deinstitutionalization - the consequence of dissociation between cultural goals and institutional norms meaning a general imbalance between cultural goals and the legitimate ways to achieve those goals (Merton, 1968).

The Strain Theory is an outcome of a normless state where people by-pass the acceptable means to achieve their economic and social goals to the detriment of the society. Accordingly, Bundless (2016), holds that Merton’s Strain Theory proposes a typology of deviance based upon two criteria- a person's motivations to cultural goals and secondly, a person's belief in how to achieve his set goals. Same study noted that social structures may pressure citizens into deviant behaviour that revolves around certain criteria such as:

- Conformity: Entails the acceptance of the cultural goals and means of attaining those goals.
- Innovation: The acceptance of the goals of a culture but the rejection of the traditional and/or legitimate means of attaining those goals.
- Ritualism: This involves the rejection of cultural goals but the routinized acceptance of the means for achieving the goals.
- Retreatism: This involves the rejection of both the cultural goals and the traditional means of achieving those goals.
- Rebellion: This is a situation where the individual rejects both the cultural goals and traditional means of achieving them but actively

attempts to replace both elements of the society with different goals and means.

Supportedly, Crossman (2016), noted that societies comprises of two major aspects- “culture” and “social structure”. She asserted that via culture, our values, beliefs, goals, and identities are formed in terms to the existing social structure of society which provides the means for us to achieve our goals and realize positive identities.

Hence, in most cases, our cultural goals are not in balance with means made available by the social structure and as a result causes structural strain which increases the chances for behavioural decay and deterioration. Sometimes, students are found choosing their own means of achieving social goals that does not conform to the school norms such as exam mal practices, cultism, sexual abuses, forgery of documents etc.

More also, the innovation criteria identified in Merton’s Strain Theory is evidenced among students who have accepted the social goals of excellent result and academic success (‘A’ grades, 1st class and 2nd class upper divisions) but have rejected the legitimate means of achieving success (studying hard, regular class attendance and participation in assignments) which ultimately leads to deviant behaviours within and outside the university environments.

Study Variables and Conceptual Framework

This study is made up of two variables – the predictor and the criterion.

The predictor – Behavioural Decay with its dimensions as Cultism and Drug Abuse

The criterion – Students’ success with academic performance as the dimensions

Functional Relationships

The study’s aim is to establish its functional relationships between the measures of the predictor and criterion variables. For this purpose, a model specification is developed to aid in the functional relationships as shown below:

$$SS = f(BD) - - - - (1)$$

$$BD = f(C,DA) - - -- (2)$$

$$SS = f(AP) - - - - (3)$$

Where:

- SS = Students’ Success
- BD = Behavioural Decay
- C = Cultism
- DA = Drug Abuse

Behavioural Decay: This is a continuous reduction in someone’s moral consciousness and actions.

Students’ Success: The accomplishment students’ set objectives and goals such as high CGPA and graduating on time.

Cultism: Association with gangs or secret cults that share negative ideologies.

Indiscipline: The act of not behaving in accordance with social standard way of life

Academic Performance: The measurements of students ‘success or failure over a period of time

Drug Abuse: wrong usage of addictive products such as cocaine, tobacco etc.

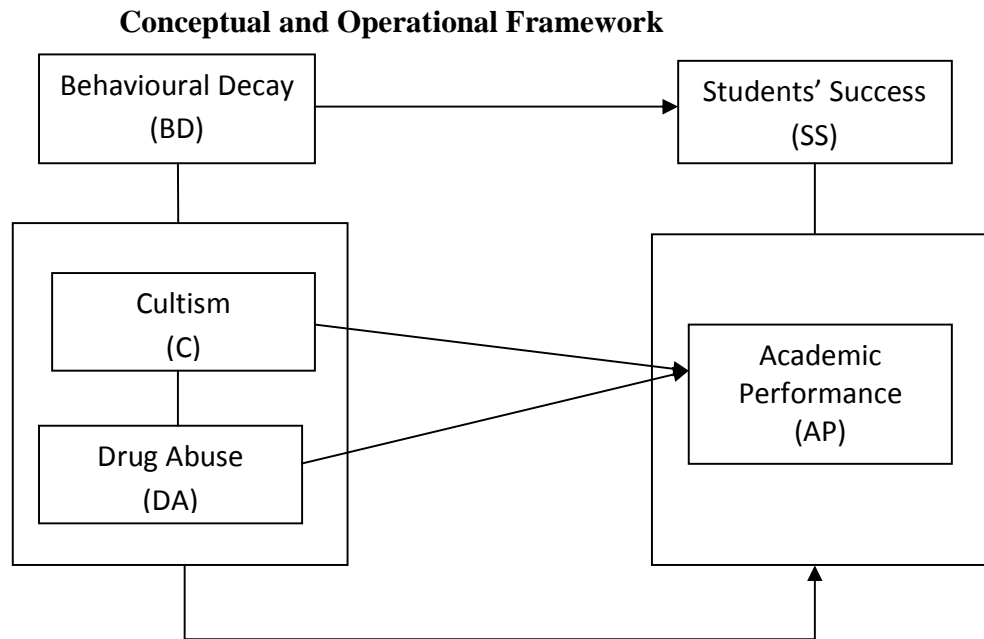


Fig1: Conceptual and Operational framework on Behavioural Decay and Students' Success of Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State.

Source: Desk Research, 2016.

Research Hypotheses: The study's hypotheses are stated below:

Ho₁: Cultism does not significantly relate to Academic Performance of Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State, Nigeria

Ho₂: Drug Abuse does not significantly relate to Academic Performance of Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State, Nigeria

Behavioural Decay

The term behavioural decay emanated from decadence and deviance as decadence refers to a state of decline while deviance means an unacceptable behaviour (Websters, 2010). In accordance, behavioural decay is defined as the gradual reduction and deviation from norms and acceptable way of life. The concept of behavioural decay refers to a continuous decline of someone's moral value which in turn affects his/her attitude towards issues of human activities.

For instance, a student who adheres to the social standard behaviour would like to attend classes regularly, study harder by reading day and night in order to have the ability of writing exams independently without going against examination rules and regulations but if behavioural decadence comes into play, the student may tend towards deviating from the general acceptable behavioural standard as required in the society.

Deviance or decay of behaviour involves a move away from what is known, usual, customary and right; as most times one who is different from moral and social standards is called a deviant. Moreover, behavioural decay occurs as a result of fall or deterioration of some components – value, respect, good conscience etc that make up a valid and acceptable behaviour in a given society or organization. Esu (2011), supported this view by positing that values are basic beliefs and attitude in a given area which are considered essential and influences the decision to behave in a certain manner. Same study added that values are ideals that guide or qualify one's personal conduct, actions, interactions and how individuals go about their career and it aids in informing individuals on how he or she can conduct one's life in a meaningful way.

Similarly, NOA (2009), stated that value contributes to behaviours of people in every society or including organizational settings and further asserted that it is therefore vital for every individual, group and indeed the entire nation to have core values which serve as the driving engines for growth and development and success in all endeavours of life.

Significantly, Smah (2001), observed that deviance as an outcome of behavioural decay consist of of several attitudes and actions that are negative to instructions and principles that one expects within a society and identified five categories of deviant activities to include: (1) Substance abuse, Economic cheating, (3) Sexual deviance (4) cultism and (5) examination mal practices.

Importantly, studies like Masath (2013), affirmed that behavioural decay is related to moral deterioration as its outcomes are not far from rape, drug abuse, school violence etc. Paradoxically, Masath (2103), also stated that moral refers to a good conduct that is acceptable by all in a given society and as such that its deterioration is sometimes referred to as moral decay, decline or erosion that eats into the society.

Further, Turiel (2002), observed that failure of individuals especially the youth; to incorporate moral values, good conducts and socio-acceptable behaviour could be explained as a moral deterioration or behavioural decay.

Causes of Behavioural Decay in University Campuses

Among the factors responsible for behavioural decay in Nigerian tertiary institutions, Kayode and Adeniyi (2009), observed that gross indiscipline in our society has affected the education system and therefore contributing to the production of undisciplined youths, leading to care-free and unacceptable behaviour which include:

Lack of Parental Care

Charity, they say begins at home. Therefore, a good home training is sine-qua-non for overall child's development. This is because the home has been perceived as the first teacher to any child. Although as the child grows, other people around get involved in the training of the child. Consequently, it is assumed that proper supervision becomes very necessary at the tender age of any child.

Ozuru and Cyprian – Behavioural decay and student success

In the past, children were trained to be well disciplined simply because parents were concerned about the behaviour of their children and they regarded such training as their primary responsibility. But today's parents have abandoned their primary responsibilities of raising their children in the same way they themselves have been raised thereby leaving the children to be truants in the universities causing harm to the society at large. They run after material wealth and fame leaving the responsibility of child discipline entirely in the hands of the school.

This is more apparent in the tertiary education system where students are regarded as adults who need little or no supervision yet, there is constant derailment in the general acceptable way of living. Another way in which the home contributes to student's indiscipline is the unlimited or unguided liberty or freedom granted by the parents to their children. Most children are over-protected and over pampered at home and thus become problematic in the school and society. Also, most parents place high premium on wealth to be the pride of their children. They provide their children with all kinds of material needs to the extent that such children consider themselves better than other people around them including their teachers. For instance, most times one finds such students riding in exotic cars and wearing indecent dresses and they drive recklessly all over the place, causing avoidable accidents. They throw parties every now and then and one will hardly find them attending classes, lobbying during exams which are all functions of poor education foundation before entry into high institutions.

Basically, solid academic foundation begins at home- if one is grounded academically from primary to secondary education, most of the laxity in tertiary institutions would have been curbed. Where such foundation is insufficient, the next alternative is to find negative means such as exam mal-practices in order to achieving academic success.

School Environment

Tertiary institutions in Nigeria today are confronted with massive increase in students' enrolment with no corresponding increase in both human and material resources. Thus, most institutions are now faced with the problems of coping with the massive welfare responsibilities expected by the students. For instance, there are inadequate recreational and welfare facilities, inadequate library and laboratory facilities, shortage of classrooms for learning, inadequate exposure of students to reading materials. Ezeanya (1979), remarked that:

To expect that there will be high moral standards in all those ill-equipped institutions, where accommodation is poor, where there are no tables, poor lighting facilities and water supply will be to expect a miracle to happen.

The Role of Lecturers

The attitude of lecturers in our tertiary institutions can either stamp out or promote social vices among students. Such attitudes include exploitation of students by lecturers, by compulsory sale of hand outs, textbooks as well as sexual harassment in addition to receiving gratification of all kinds from the students can promote social vices. Moreover inadequate commitment to duty by lecturers as well as inadequate incentives and staff welfare policies are also factors that promote indiscipline in our tertiary institutions.

Societal Influence

The society in which the students develop and operate also have tremendous influence on their behaviours. Such things as inadequate transportations, water, accommodation and electricity in host communities as well as massive poverty in the land can promote social vices in the tertiary institutions. Indeed the past two decades have witnessed

unmitigated confusion and economic depression or unrestrained corruption and human misery, insecurity and nightmares or apathy, of wanton destruction of public utilities, kidnappings and assassinations.

Government Influence

Some government officials promote immoral acts in tertiary institutions by involving students in politics and encouraging them to be partisans, apart from undue interference in union matters at the state and even National Association of Nigerian Students' (NANS) elections, sponsoring division among students, as well as encouraging them to undermine the school authorities. The resultant effect of these undue interferences is gross indiscipline among both staff and students of our tertiary institution thereby leading to moral decadence.

Summing up the level of indiscipline in our tertiary institutions, Nwabueze (1995), stated that at the tertiary level, our Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education have become perhaps the most fertile ground for social unrest and indiscipline. He added that the factors responsible for this state of affairs are partly external and partly internal to the tertiary institutions. Among the external causes are insufficient funds, lack of coherent higher education policies by successive governments, undue interference with the school autonomy, corruptions, unbridled quests for intellectualism and the enthronement of mediocrity in our society in place of excellence and success of students.

The Concept of Cultism

Cultism is a system of religious belief and practice or an ideology (Denga, 1991), Orukpe (1988), defined cults as a group who share and propagate peculiar secret beliefs divulged to members. In addition, their initiation procedures often involve secret rituals like swearing by some deity, human blood and other procedures, which send shivers down the spines of most people. Cultism leads to outbreak of violence on campuses and its

attendant destruction of lives and property. The unhealthy rivalry among secret cult groups often intensifies acts of terrorism and hatred among students on campuses. These sometimes result in the closure of tertiary institutions for quite a long time, with negative effect on implementation of academic programmes that will enhance students' success.

Opalunwah (2000), noted that cult clashes led to an outburst of violence in school campuses which left many students wounded and killed. In a study carried out in universities of the middle belt zone in Nigeria, Smah (2001), reported that 15% of students had either observed or reported cult/gang motivated deaths on the university campuses between one and two times in the previous years. Yusuf (2006), noted that at least one hundred students in higher institutions in Nigeria were killed in cult related incidents in the, year 2006 alone.

Opalunwah (2006), also stated that cult clashes led to the incarcerations, rustications or expulsions of both innocent and guilty students; and hospitalization of student thereby suspending learning for some period of time. In addition to the physical damages and disruption of the learning process, life on university campuses in Rivers State where cultist activities prevail can be very unpleasant and insecure for those who are not involved with them. Smah (2001), noted that the feeling of insecurity and fear of cultism were high in Nigeria tertiary education campuses. One worrying development is that the activities of cults in institutions of higher learning are now influencing groups in other institution including secondary schools.

Drug Abuses

A drug is a substance of biological or chemical origin which when applied to a living tissue produces an effect that mars one's level of reasoning and rational judgements. Drugs include what are commonly called medicines and are not only substances which alter mood, perception or normal awareness as some people erroneously believe (Igbokwe, 1977). Generally, there are certain drugs, which users especially adolescents become easily addicted to and therefore abuse a lot. Tobacco is a stimulant that increases mental alertness and in high doses causes unsteadiness and muscle tremors, Narcotic analgesics such as Morphine, Heroin and Opium are pain relievers with marked effect on mood of people. The causes of drug abuse among students include; coping with pressures/stress of school life, ignorance, pleasure, curiosity, incorrect drug dosage, low self-esteem, inferiority complex or feeling of inadequacy, and membership of group/peer pressure.

Manbe (2008), defined drug abuse as the excessive, maladaptive or addictive use of drugs for non-medical objectives. Abdulahi (2009), viewed drug abuse as the use of drugs to the extent that it interferes with the health and social function of an individual. In essence, drug abuse may be defined as the arbitrary over-dependence or mis-use of one particular drug with or without a prior medical diagnosis and advice from qualified health practitioners.

Moreover, Okoie and Adebisi (2015), noted that the negative outcomes of drug abuse on the well-being of Nigerian youths in all endeavours have necessitated a clarion call for the Nigerian society to live up to its responsibility. His assertion observed that drug abuse has caused lots of harm and as such demands urgent attention to save our youths both in tertiary institutions and the society at large.

Student Success

Student success is viewed as achieving positive objectives and goals set by students over a period of time. This period of time could be a four years, two years, or a year programme (Bsc, OND, HND, PGD, MSC etc). Success is the act of achieving something that is desirable to human life which could make one famous or move to a higher social position.

Students' success is generally defined by educationist as what constitutes graduation and retention rates, satisfactory completion of course works, High Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) etc (Excelencia in Education, 2006).

Further, Magolda (2004), as cited in Kuh et al (2006), observed that students success has lots of indicators such as appreciation for human differences, commitment to democratic values, a capacity to work effectively with people from different backgrounds, Ability to solve economic problems, information literacy, and a well-developed sense of identity. These indicators reveals the success of every student does not end up in graduation and better grades but to become fit for social and economic challenges; where a student can handle life issues and capable of working with people at different geographical region.

Academic Performance

Performance is a measurement of the outcome of an activity. Performance refers to the result from engaging in an act over a period of time which implies the effectiveness, successfulness and failure level of an individual or group. Supportedly, Maclayton & Nwoka (2012), stated that performance is a term used by scholars in describing the analysis and improvement of efficiency and effectiveness of an activity. In same vein, academic performance entails the successfulness or failure level of a student from his academic activities. The outcome of a student's engagement in the university environment is determined by what constitute his/her activities following the computer rule of "Gabbage in,

Gabbage Out”. This means that measuring students’ performance could be solely predicted by their daily activities within and outside the university campuses.

Methods of Promoting Positive Attitude Amongst Students and Lecturers

Despite the discussed negative vices that result to poor students’ performance in tertiary institutions, there are some positive efforts that instils positive mental attitudes on students which could enhance their academic success if adhered to.

Berkowitz & Bier (2005), identified that school-based research provided methods for promoting positive youth development and preventing involvement in negative behaviors, such as:

- **Building caring and supportive relationships in the classroom and throughout the school.** This begins, of course, with the classroom teacher, who needs to try to establish a positive, personal relationship with each of his/her students.
- **Model positive behavior** (i.e. “walk the walk, don’t just talk the talk”). Students are very responsive to their teacher’s or lecturer’s actual behavior and will reflect on what they observe, In the process of developing their own identities, students seek role models that help them to personally understand what it means to be a good person and effective citizen, and their teachers are influential in this process.
- **Teach essential social and emotional skills.** An essential part of promoting students’ positive development includes the direct teaching of social-emotional skills, such as listening when others are talking, recognizing and managing emotions, disagreeing respectfully, and

resolving conflicts through non-violent means that respect the needs of both parties.

- **Involve students in moral discourse.** Teachers need to engage students in meaningful dialog about what it means to live a responsible life.
- **Make learning tasks meaningful and relevant to students' lives.** Care should be taking to ensure that students are offering courses that related to their desired future occupation to avoid lost of interest.
- **Leave no child behind.** Avenues should be created to encourage students to realize their full potentials by helping them to develop unique talents and abilities, and by inspiring their growth intellectually, ethically, socially, and emotionally. Moreover, the paper adds thus:
- **Full support to student unionism and Moral Campaigns:** Unionism of students should be encouraged by academic and non academic staffs. Seminars and re-orientation programmes should be held regularly to enhance students' 'enlightenment on the benefits that accrues from being law abiding and avoidance of academic mal practices.

For example, University Port Harcourt (Uniport) Student Union Government 2015/2016 session made a bill board tagged "**SAY NO TO EXAM MAL PRACTICE**". This has aided in the campaign against all forms of mal practices that result to behavioural decay of students and Nigerian Youths at large. See Fig 2 below:

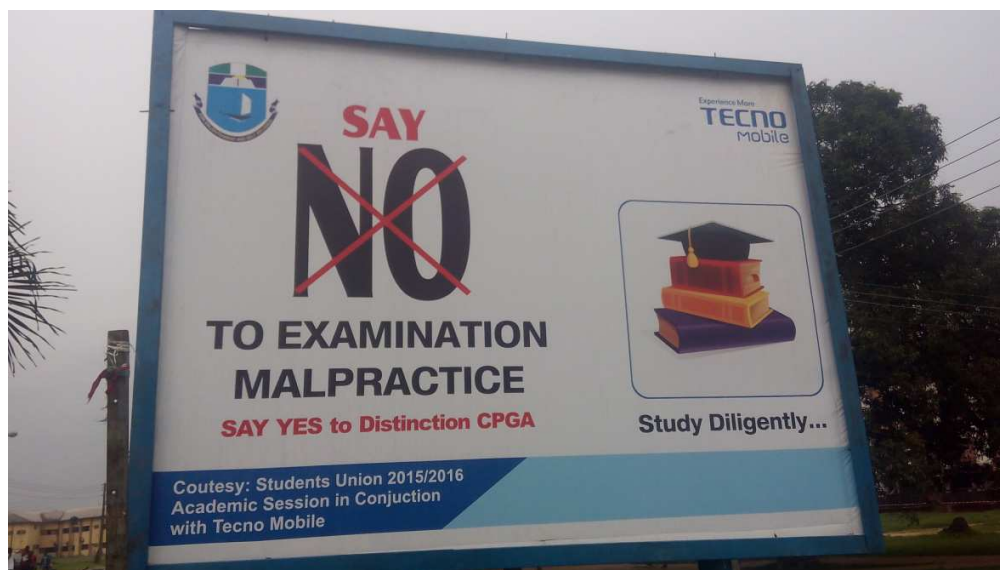


Fig 2: Uniport students' union campaign against Exam mal practices
Source: Authors' observation, 2016

Behavioural decay and Academic Performance

Social vices which are as a result of behavioural decay have eaten up the educational and moral standard of students; innocent students are being lured into immoral acts and other social vices such as drug abuse, armed robbery, murder etc (DeSimone and Wolver, 2005).

The gravity of the impact and consequences of intra and inter cult activities on morals and ethical standards cannot be overemphasised. It ranges from resultant physical harm on individual, disruption of the learning process, destruction of college properties and even deaths that contribute to the breeding of feelings of insecurity. Moreover, an

institution with high cultism rate will always be closed down because of the frequent fights, clashes, unrest and blood-shed.

Further, Opaluwah (2000), noted that cult clashes led to an outburst of violence on the campus which left many students wounded, maimed or killed. In a study carried out in universities of the middle Belt zone in Nigeria, Smah (2001), reported that 15% of students had either observed cult/gang-motivated deaths in the university campuses between in more than once the previous years. He also added 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 university campuses where cultist activities prevail can be very unpleasant and in secured for those who are not directly involved with them.

The paper observed that youths that make up 80 percent of the university environments abuse Tramadol, and codine, and others with less consideration on its negative effects such as loss of memory and low of breath thereby disengaging the students from effective and positive contributions to the economic and social wellbeing of the society.

Similarly, Yusuf (2006), noted that at least one hundred students of higher institutions in Nigeria were killed over cult related incident as at the year 2006 alone. Smah (2001), noted that the feeling of insecurity and fear of cultism were high in Nigeria tertiary education campuses which results to fear and unsteadiness of students in responding to activities that may produce academic excellence.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed survey design with the population drawn from five selected tertiary institution in Rivers State, Nigeria. Five departments were considered with 20 copies each, totalling 100 copies of questionnaire

Ozuru and Cyprian – Behavioural decay and student success

administered to academic staffs of the selected institutions. The questionnaire was structure in a five point likert scale and after data cleaning, 84 copies were found valid and useful for analysis using Kendall's tau_b with the aid of SPSS version 20. See Table 4.1 for the population and questionnaire administered.

Table 4.1: Study population and number of questionnaire distributed to each department

Institutions	Departments	Copies of questionnaire
University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT)	CIVIL	20
Rivers State University of Science & Technology (RSUST). Port Harcourt	MARKETING	20
Ken-Saro Wiwa Polytechnic, Bori (KEN POLY)	ELECT/ELECT	20
Ignatus-Ajuru University of Education (UOE). Rumuolumeni. Port Harcourt	COMP. SCIENCE	20
Port Harcourt Polytechnic (PP)	PUBLIC ADMIN	20
TOTAL:		100

Source: Field Survey, (2016)

Data Analysis and Presentation

Decision rule: Reject null hypothesis if $P < 0.05$

0.1 and above = Positive relationship

-0.1 and above = Negative relationship

Table 4.2: Test of Hypotheses 1 and 2
Correlations

		Academic Performance	Cultism	Drug Abuse
Kendall's tau_b	Academic Performance			
	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.872**	.713**
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.	.001	.005
	N	84	84	84
	Cultism			
	Correlation Coefficient	.872**	1.000	.
Drug Abuse	Cultism			
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.001	.	.
	N	84	84	84
	Drug Abuse			
	Correlation Coefficient	.713**	.	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.005	.	.
N		84	84	84

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).

Discussion of findings

Table 4.2 shows:

Kendall's tau_b = 0.872 for Cultism and Academic Performance; then 0.713 for Drug Abuse and Academic Performance, where: P-value = 0.005 and 0.005 (p<0.05).

The Kendall's correlation values show that cultism has very strong and significant positive relationship with academic performance while drug abuse has strong and significant positive relationship with academic performance.

Further, our results reveal that cultism activities has a stronger impact on the performance of students with a higher kendall's tau_d of 0.872 compared to drug abuse with 0.713. Therefore, based on our decision rule, we reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternative hypotheses which state that cultism and drug abuse has significant relationship with academic performance of tertiary institutions in Rivers state, Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the study revealed that success of students depends on the activities that preoccupy their time within and outside the campuses. Hence, the study concludes that behavioural decay contributes to academic performance of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Study recommends that:

- Universities should improve on general courses that will stimulate the socio-consciousness of students.
- Parents should take the responsibility of proper monitoring of their children's behaviour and manner of associations with peer groups and instill discipline for better tomorrow.
- Academic administrative teams should ensure effective implementation of laws that guides universities students' code of conduct.

- Government agencies should ensure adequate infrastructures are put in place to enhance student' comfort and convenience thereby creating a study academic environment.

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