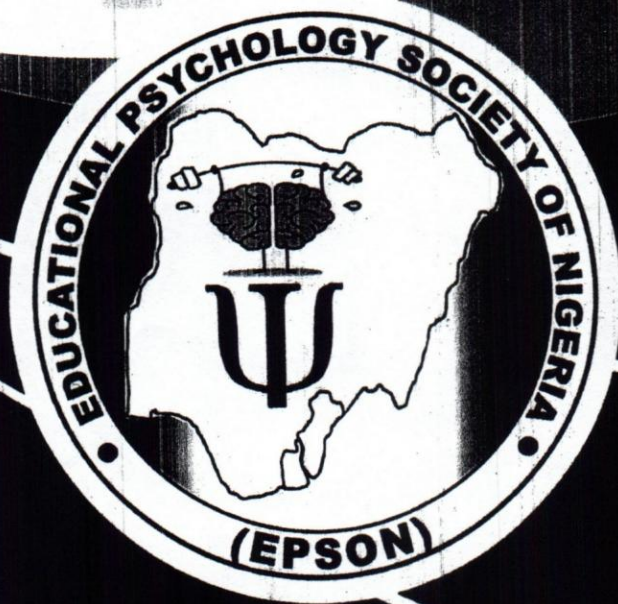


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PERCEPTION OF MODE OF DRESSING ON CAMPUSES OF HIGHER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING BY STUDENTS IN AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY EKPOMA EDO STATE

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Abstract: *The study explored perception of mode of dressing on campuses of higher institutions of learning by students in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma Edo State. The study identified the forms of indecent dressing prevalent among the undergraduates as well the perceived causes of indecent dressing. It also determined the consequences of indecent dressing and students' adopted coping mechanisms. Survey research design was used for the study. Two hundred (N =200) male and female students participated in the study. The researcher-designed and validated questionnaire titled "Students Questionnaire on Indecent Dressing (SQID)" was used to collect data for this study. The reliability coefficients obtained ranged from 0.72 to 0.91 when the instrument was pilot-tested on 40 undergraduate students in other university outside the locale of the study. The findings revealed that both male and female students involved in this study dress indecently. The results also showed that peer group influence, accepted foreign influence and fading values, and modernization of Africa culture were majorly acknowledged causes of indecent dressing by the students. It further revealed that indecent dressing has negative consequence on the respondents and students showed preference for seeking faith based solution than seeking counselling helps and services as one of the coping mechanism. The study concluded that students perceived that male and female undergraduates involved in indecent dressing on the campus. It therefore recommended counseling helps and services for educating students on the implications of their mode of dressing.*

Keywords: *Perception, Indecent dressing, Mode of dressing, Students*

Introduction

A dress is a cloth worn on the body in order to cover nakedness. Dressing refers to as an act of putting on cloth in order to protect and beautifying our body. Any type of dress worn is depended on physical stature, gender, status as well as social and geographic considerations. A primary function of clothing is to improve the comfort of the wearer by providing protection against harsh weather conditions as well as for covering the intimate parts of the body. Dorcas and Joice (2018) cited Omede (2011) view dressing pattern of an individual as a kind of sign language

that communicate a complete set of information and is usually the basis on which immediate impressions are formed.

Indecent dressing is a dressing that reveals sensitive parts of the body. Indecent dressings sometimes send wrong signals that may stir up sexual urge of the opposite sex in both males and females. However, all dresses that reveal sensitive parts of the body such as the burst, chest, belly, upper arms and buttocks are referred to as indecent dressing. Egwim (2010) referred to indecent dressing in a more specific term as the attitude of someone, male or female that dresses to show off parts of the body such as the breasts, buttocks or even the underwear particularly those of the ladies that need to be covered. Olori (2003) viewed indecent dressing as a form of dressing that is provocative, improper and morally unacceptable. These dress patterns are morally offensive and reveal the high rate of moral decadence in the society of our time. Adeboye (2012) defined indecent dressing as the wearing of clothes that are not appropriate for a particular occasion or situation. She further explained that, it is not indecent to go naked in the bathroom, in labour room or in the bedroom with your partner. Olakojo (2018) defined indecent dressing as deliberate exposure of one's body to the public which is against the norms, culture and values of the society. From the above definitions what seem to be common among the researchers shows that any forms of provocative, improper and morally and culturally unacceptable dressing that deviation society are termed as the indecent dressing.

Indecent dressings seem very common among male and female students of campus of higher institution of learning in Nigeria. For examples, half naked dressing, transparent clothes, bumper shorts, armless tops etc worn by girls, sagging, hot bosom, low west and the likes worn by boys. All clothes that reveal sensitive parts of the body such as the burst, chest, belly, upper arms are commonly wear among the students on campus. Indecent dressing is influenced by various factors which includes poor parenting, videos, pornography and music watching, Peer group influence, wrong use of internet facilities, Modernization of African culture, models watch on television, foreign culture influence and fading values etc. (Omede, 2011; Gushee, 2014; and Dorcas & Joice, 2018)

Indecently dressed students may likely be vulnerable to assault, sexual harassments, rape, target of victimization, lured into prostitution, used for ritual purpose, lose concentration on school work/education and also may engaged in other social and moral evils like cultism and lying to mention a few in the society.

Researchers like (Abdul-Noowin, 2017; Olakojo, 2014) observed that a lot of dangers are attached with indecent dressing. These dangers include rape, prostitution, venereal deadly diseases, poor school grades, sexual assault, moral and values decay. This study investigated students' perception of mode of dressing on campus of higher institution of learning and coping strategies adopted by students.

Indecent dressing is a deliberate exposure of one's body to the public. These forms of dressing are improper, provocative and morally unacceptable in the society. Indecent modes of dressing are common among undergraduate students of campus in Nigerian. These patterns of dressing are morally offensive and reveal the high rate of moral decadence in the society. Students' perceived mode of dressing on campus of higher institution of learning may be influenced by many factors which include poor parenting, peer pressure, wrong use of the Internet, fading values as well as demonic influence among others. Indecently dressed students are vulnerable to various social vices such assault and sexual harassment, prostitution, rape, stealing, poor academic performance, HIV/AIDS and other venereal disease infection as well as armed robbery, lying recorded in the society over time. The study therefore investigated perception of mode of dressing on campuses of higher institution of learning among students in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State (Foreign Links Campus Moro Study Centre).

Research Objectives

The objectives for this study are to:

1. identify the forms of indecent dressing prevalent among undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State (Foreign Links Campus Moro Study Centre);
2. examine the perceived causes of indecent dressing among the students;
3. determine the consequences of indecent dressing on students, and
4. investigate coping mechanism adopt by students

Research questions

- i. What are the forms of female dressing considered indecent by male undergraduate students and forms of male way of dressing considered as indecent by female in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State (Foreign Links Campus Moro Study Centre)?
- ii. What are the perceived causes of indecent dressing among the students?
- iii. What consequences does indecent dressing have on students?

- iv. What are the coping mechanisms adopted by students?

Methodology

The study adopted survey design. The population for the study consisted of all 350 undergraduate students of Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma, Edo State (Foreign Links Campus, Moro Study Centre). The sample consisted of 200 students selected using a simple random sampling technique. The researcher-designed and validated questionnaire titled "Students Questionnaire on Indecent Dressing (SQID)" was used to collect data for this study. The items in this questionnaire were generated from the thorough review of the empirical and conceptual studies in related area of interest. The questionnaire was divided into five (5) subsections. The section A of the questionnaire contained the bio-data of the students. Section B (i) consisted of 14 items which measured forms of female dressing considered as indecent by their male counterparts; section B (ii) had 20 items which measured forms of male dressing considered as indecent by their female counterparts; section C contained seven (7) items that measured perceived causes of indecent dressings; section D contained 14 items that measured consequences of indecent dressing on students while section E contained 14 items that measured coping mechanisms adopted by students. The questionnaire was pilot-tested on 40 undergraduate students in other university and the reliability coefficients were determined for each section and the whole items on the questionnaire. For instance, the reliability coefficients obtained for 14, 20, 14, 7, and 14 items on sections B through E respectively were .83, .89, .72, .83 and .90 while the whole items on the questionnaire yielded a reliability coefficient of .91 via internal consistency based on Cronbach' Alpha. Data collected were analyzed using percentages, ranking and Relative Significant Index (RSI).

Results

Research Question 1: What are the forms of indecent dressing prevalent among undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma Edo State (Foreign Links Campus Moro Study Centre)?

To answer this research question, the responses of (male and female) students to items in Section Bi of the questionnaire were analysed. The female students were made to indicate the forms of male's dressing they considered as indecent forms of dressing. The average score of the frequencies of each of the

forms of dressing was calculated (31). Frequencies that were equal to or greater than the average score were identified as the prevalent forms of dressing among the students. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Male students' forms of dressing considered as indecent by female undergraduate students

SN	Forms of dressing	Yes (%)	No (%)	Rank
	Shirts or any wear revealing the armpit or shoulder	49 (49.0)	51 (51.0)	2 nd
	Short knickers above the knee	52 (52.0)	48 (48.0)	1 st
	Wearing of Head ties	37 (37.0)	63 (63.0)	3 rd
	Wearing of Earrings	32 (32.0)	68 (68.0)	6 th
	Clothing including T-shirts which displays sex, violence, drugs, tobacco,	30 (30.0)	70 (70.0)	7 th
	T-Shirts and jeans which carry immoral messages	34 (34.0)	64 (64.0)	4 th
	Kaftans without trousers	24 (24.0)	76 (76.0)	9 th
	Tattoo with provocative writing or picture	22 (22.0)	78 (78.0)	12 th
	Long and bushy hairs and beards	34 (34.0)	66 (66.0)	4 th
	Braiding	26 (26.0)	74 (74.0)	8 th
	Jerry curls	19 (19.0)	81 (81.0)	13 th
	Plaited hairs	23 (23.0)	77 (77.0)	11 th
	Dreadlocks	24 (24.0)	76 (76.0)	9 th

Table 1 shows that 52% of the female undergraduates considered short knickers above the knee forms of male's dressing as indecent, followed by shirts or clothes revealing the armpit (49%), while only 19% of the female students considered jury curls as the least form of male's dressing. This is followed by tattoo with provocative writing or picture (22%) and plaited hair (23%). Furthermore, the female students' forms of dressing considered as indecent by males are presented in

Table 2: Female students' forms of dressing considered as indecent by male undergraduate students

S/N	Forms of dressing	Yes	No	RSI	RANK
1	Sleeveless tops	48 (48.0)	52 (52.0)	0.74	5
2	Body hugs	52 (52.0)	48 (48.0)	0.76	2
3	Short Knickers	42 (42.0)	58 (58.0)	0.71	11
4	Transparent clothes	23 (23.0)	77 (77.0)	0.62	19
5	Head gears e.g. Canopy head ties	49 (49.0)	51 (51.0)	0.75	3
6	Bogus fashion jewelries	36 (36.0)	64 (64.0)	0.68	13
7	Spaghetti tops	45 (45.0)	55 (55.0)	0.73	7
8	OFF shoulders	44 (44.0)	56 (56.0)	0.72	9
9	Wicket straps	26 (26.0)	74 (74.0)	0.63	18
10	Mono straps	34 (34.0)	66 (66.0)	0.67	14
11	Mini skirts	50 (50.0)	50 (50.0)	0.75	3
12	Dress and Skirt with slit above the knees	53 (53.0)	47 (47.0)	0.77	1
13	Tight dresses and dresses	38 (38.0)	62 (62.0)	0.69	12
14	T-Shirts and jeans which carry immoral messages	31 (31.0)	69 (69.0)	0.66	15
15	All clothes that reveal sensitive parts of the body such as the burst, chest, belly, upper arms and buttocks	24 (24.0)	76 (76.0)	0.62	19
16	Rosy Chicks	30 (30.0)	70(70.0)	0.65	17
17	Eye Shadow	47 (47.0)	53 (53.0)	0.74	5
18	Excessive Lipsticks	31 (31.0)	69 (69.0)	0.66	16
19	Rastafarian hairstyles	43 (43.0)	57 (57.0)	0.72	9
20	Nail attachment	46(46.0)	54(54.0)	0.73	7

Table 2 shows that the respondents identified dress and Skirt with slit above the knees and body hugs clothes as their most frequently worn clothes ranked highest using RSI; while the least ranked worn were all clothes that reveal sensitive parts of the body such as the burst, chest, belly, upper arms and buttocks and transparent clothes.

Research Question 2: What are the perceived causes of indecent dressing among the students?

Table 3: Perceived Causes of indecent dressing among undergraduate students

S/N	Perceived Causes	Yes	No	RSI	RANK
	Poor parenting influence	95 (47.5)	105 (52.5)	0.74	7
	Watching videos, pornography and music	133 (66.5)	67 (33.5)	0.83	5
	Peer group influence	146 (73.0)	54 (27.0)	0.87	1
	They learn it through the use of internet facilities	133 (66.5)	67 (33.5)	0.83	6
	Modernization of African culture	140 (70.0)	60 (30.0)	0.85	2
	They learn most of their dress code from models on television	137 (68.5)	63 (31.5)	0.84	4
	Accepted foreign influence and fading values	141 (70.5)	59 (29.5)	0.85	2

Table 3 shows that most of the respondents' ranked peer group influence (1st) as the major cause of indecent dressing among students in higher institutions of learning. This is followed by accepted foreign influence and fading values and modernization of African culture (2nd), while they indicated that poor parenting influence is the least among the causes of indecent dressing among higher institution students.

Research Question 3: What consequences does indecent dressing have on students?

Table 4: Consequences of indecent dressing on undergraduate student's behaviour

SN	Consequences	RSI	Rank
	I feel aroused sexually	0.60	6 th
	I feel depressed	0.62	2nd
	I feel comfortable	0.61	4th
	I feel frustrated	0.57	8th
	I feel like stealing to match up with their style of dressing	0.55	10th
	I lose concentration on school work	0.56	9th
	I feel intimidated	0.61	4th
	It makes students to be a target of victimization	0.62	2nd
	It gives me bad impression about such students	0.65	1st
	I have a feeling of having a civilized friend	0.60	6th

The results in Table 4 shows that “it gives me bad impression about such students” ranked 1st among the consequence the indecent dressing have on students, “I feel depressed” and “it makes students to be a target of victimization” ranked 2nd while “I feel like stealing to match up with their style of dressing” ranked the least (10th) among the consequence indecent dressing have on students, “I lose concentration on school work” ranked 9th while “I feel frustrated” ranked 8th on the list.

Research Question 4: What coping mechanism do the students adopt/Counselling Implications?

Table 5: Coping mechanism adopted by undergraduate students

SN	Statements	RSI	Rank	Average RSI
A Personal mechanism				
1	I learn to cope with it because there is nothing much I can do about it	0.71	8 th	0.64
2	I change my negative thought about their dressing	0.67	12 th	
3	I copy their dressing style in other to belong	0.55	14 th	
B Counseling mechanism				
4	I visit a counsellor for help	0.72	6 th	0.69
5	I use online counselling services	0.68	11 th	
6	I report friends to the counselor secretly	0.69	10 th	
C Religious mechanism				
7	I pray to God for help	0.72	6 th	0.75
8	I follow my religious doctrine about dressing	0.76	1 st	
9	I commit myself more to religious activities that can take my mind off from it	0.76	1 st	
10	I attend religious preaching, programmes, seminars, workshops and educative talks and shows that afford me opportunity to speak with the religious leader	0.76	1 st	
D Social mechanism				
11	I share my feeling with a reliable person	0.75	4 th	0.71
12	I received practical help from friend and family	0.73	5 th	
13	I ask my colleague for emotional help	0.71	8 th	
14	I make efforts to expose them to people that can talk to them	0.64	13 th	

Results in Table 5 shows coping strategies adopted by students who are victimized by indecent dressings. As shown in Table 6, students made use of religious mechanism more than others in coping with the effect that indecent dressing has on their behaviour. The average RSI value for religious mechanism is 0.69. This is followed by social and counselling mechanisms with average RSI value of 0.71. The least adopted mechanism is personal with Average RSI value of 0.64. This result suggests that undergraduate students showed preference for seeking faith based solution than seeking counselling help and services as one of the coping mechanism.

Discussions

It was revealed in research question one of the study that both male and females involved in this study dress indecently. Most of the prevalent forms of dresses that the respondents identified that they wear were in line with the definitions and descriptions of authors and researchers as indecent dressing. For instance, the prevalent ones as indicated by the male students were: shirts or any wear revealing the armpit; short knickers above the knee when not required; Head ties; Earrings; T-Shirts and jeans which carry immoral messages and long and bushy hairs and beards. These forms of dressing according to Olori (2003) are provocative, improper and morally unacceptable. These dress patterns are morally offensive and reveal the high rate of moral decadence in the society. They are also in consonance with the submission of Oyeleye (2013), that indecent dressing simply means the deliberate exposure of one's body to the public. This practice is contrary to the acceptable norms and values of the society.

On the other hand, the prevalent forms of dressing among the female students were sleeveless tops; body hugs; short knickers; head gears e.g. canopy head ties; spaghetti tops; OFF shoulders; mini-skirts; dress and skirt with slit above the knees; eye shadow; Rastafarian hairstyles and Nail attachments. These were also in line with the submission of Adeboye (2012), who defined indecent dressing as the wearing of clothes that are not appropriate for a particular occasion or situation and Egwim (2010) referred to it in a more specific term as the attitude of someone, male or female that dresses to showoff parts of the body such as the breasts, buttocks or even the underwear particularly those of the ladies that need to be covered. Igbinovia (2015), in a study stated that 60% of female undergraduate students of the University in Nigeria dress indecently. Similar to these are Anadi,

Egboka and Aniorobi (2011). Therefore, this study has been able to establish that both male and female students of higher institution of learning dress indecently.

The results from research question two showed that all the items except poor parenting influence was acknowledged as causes of indecent dressing by the students. They identified peer pressure as a fundamental cause of indecent dressing; peer pressure is a force that gravitate friends together and most times for evil or negative tendencies. The desire to belong and the fear of rejection have led many youths into evil or immoral acts sometimes against their will. Some of them lack the strong will to say no to evil for fear of being isolated. However, Nwabuisi, 2010 was of the opinion that pressure of peers will be inconsequential when there is healthy parental upbringing and the fear of God in the life of any youth.

The respondents also identified abuse of internet facilities, dress code from models on television and shows as another major cause of indecent dressing. Although, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has helped to revolutionize the community tremendously; it has via the use of Internet, Communication satellites, mobile phones etc, helped to bring people together; distance, culture or language notwithstanding. Through the activities of home videos, satellites and other media agents, values (faulty or correct), fashions (modern, modest and immodest) are traded across cultures and nations. In as much as ICT is helpful, it is consequential to human and societal developments, especially when not properly regulated in a country like ours. Furthermore, the bid to modernize the African culture and the acceptance of foreign influence and fading values and also contributed immensely to the decadence.

Nonetheless, worthy of note that the respondents pinpointed the poor parenting influence as the least cause of indecent dressing. Although, researchers were of the opinion that the influence of home environment on the development of children is not in any way doubtful (Omede & Odiba, 2010) and that the home is every child's first window to the outside world. What the parents do with the child at this level in terms of training and orientation go a long way to determining what the child becomes tomorrow. Children live or die, thrive or wither, due to the decision of their parents (Gushee, 2014). It therefore implies that if a child is well trained as a child, efforts will still need to be exerted as the powerful interplay of the peer group pressure could erode the training of the parents. Consequent on this, the submission of Nwabuisi (2010) that the pressure of peers will be

inconsequential when there is healthy parental upbringing and the fear of God in the life of any youth will be useful.

Results from research three revealed that indecent dressing has negative consequence on the respondents. Here, the respondents were told to evaluate the consequence the dressing of the opposite sex has on them. Majority of them indicated that it gives them a bad impression about their opposite sex that dress indecently. They also identified other psychological problems like depression, intimidation, sexual arousal, loss of concentration on academic works as some of the effect their opposite sex's indecent forms of dressing can have on them. In addition, some female students, because of their provocative way of dressing have one time or the other become victims of rape, lured into prostitution, used for ritual purpose, unable to complete their education or training and also engaged in other ancillary social and moral problems like cultism and lying (Omode, 2011).

The results from research question four showed that students ranked religion (1st), social (2nd) and while counseling mechanism ranked (3rd) mechanism adopted by students to cope with the effect that indecent dressing has on their behaviour. This implies that the students rarely seek counseling help and services as one of the coping mechanism.

Conclusion

The study concluded that students perceived that male and female undergraduates involved in indecent dressing on the campus. This habit was attributed mostly to peer group influence, accepted foreign influence and fading values, modernization of Africa culture.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Counselling services should be made available for students to include decent mode of dressing in all our high institutions of learning to correct indecent dressing among students. Parents should also to inculcate good moral education to their children.
2. Parents should also give them attention and regulate the films they watch at homes. Also, mass media must promote good moral values, and culture. The school authority should organize seminars public enlightenment programmes

regularly to sensitize and enlighten undergraduates on the need to dress decently in the society.

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