

PERCEPTION OF INDECENT DRESSING AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY, AKUNGBA-AKOKO, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the perception of students on indecent dressing among undergraduate students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. The purpose of the study is to examine the effects of indecent dressing on academic performance of both male and female undergraduate students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. Descriptive research design and survey type was adopted for the study. The sample consisted 400 undergraduate students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State. Simple random technique was used to select the sample for the study. Three research questions were formulated. The data for this study were collected using questionnaire entitle Questionnaire on Indecent Dressing among Undergraduate Students (QIDAUs) which wa sdeveloped by the researcher was used for data collection. The content validity of the instrument was sorted before usage and the reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbachs' Alpha and the coefficient was found to be 0.74. Descriptive statistics was used to answer the research questions. The findings revealed that there is higher degree of indecent dressing among undergraduate students and that indecent dressing affects the academic performance of both male and female undergraduate students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was concluded among other things that academic performance of undergraduate students can be improved positively by encouraging the students to cultivate the habit of decent dressing at all time.

Keywords: Students' perception, indecent dressing, undergraduate students.

INTRODUCTION

Indecent dressing among university students is a term used to describe the act of dressing in a manner that is considered inappropriate and offensive to the society. Indecent dressing refers to clothing that is considered inappropriate, immodest, or offensive according to societal norms and standards. It varies across different cultures and contexts, and can include clothing that is revealing, suggestive or provocative. A specific definition of indecent dressing may depend on various factors such as age, gender, religion, and cultural background (Yakubu, 2011). According to Oloyede (2018), indecent dressing, also known as immodest dressing, is becoming increasingly common among college students, especially females.

Indecent dressing is a prevalent issue among university students in Nigeria, particularly among female students, who tend to wear revealing and tight-fitting outfits that leave little to the imagination. Female undergraduate students also do the following:

- ✓ Wearing revealing clothes (e.g., short skirts, low-cut tops, see-through clothes)
- ✓ Wearing clothes that are too tight or too small
- ✓ Wearing clothes that are too baggy or too loose
- ✓ Wearing clothes that are dirty or unkempt
- ✓ Perforating their noses and thereby put earrings on their noses

In the same vein, male students tend to put on crazy jeans and even do sagging; they wear crazy jeans; earrings, they colour their hairs; they make dreadlocks (hairstyle), to mention a few. This problem is observed in almost all higher institutions of learning in the country (Nweke, 2018).

Several studies have been conducted to understand the reasons behind this behavior, with many researchers attributing it to poor parenting, peer pressure, exposure to inappropriate content on the internet, and the erosion of societal values (Nwabueze & Nwankwo, 2019). The impact of indecent dressing on the academic and social environment of Nigerian universities cannot be overemphasized. It has the potential to distract other students and lecturers, create a negative perception of the affected individuals, and promote immoral behavior.

All the aforementioned prompted the researcher to embark on this study to find out the perception of the undergraduate students in AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria on indecent dressing.

The study by Olorunda (2022) explored the issue of indecent dressing among youth in South-West Nigeria using ethnographic research design. The sample consisted of 20 youth

selected using multistage sampling procedures. The study found that indecent dressing among youth in South-West Nigeria is influenced by factors such as the internet, fading values, and peer influence. The consequences of this trend include rape, prostitution, HIV/AIDs and other venereal diseases/infections, cases of armed robbery, lying, poor school grades, and dropout, among others. The absence of a dress code was identified as a major factor contributing to this trend. The study recommends that parents should teach their children moral education and monitor their media consumption, while mass-media should promote positive norms, values, and traditions. Overall, the study concludes that indecent dressing has negative effects on youth in South-West Nigeria.

In their study titled "Students' Perception of Indecent Dressing in Adamawa State Citadel of Higher Learning," Kwanuba & Sababa (2020) aimed to investigate the perception of students on indecent dressing in citadels of higher learning in Adamawa State. The authors highlighted the importance of education in promoting the holistic development of students and preparing them for future leadership roles. However, they expressed concern over the prevalence of indecent dressing among students and its negative consequences on academic performance and personal development.

The study employed a descriptive survey research design and a multistage sampling technique to select 400 students from four citadels of higher learning in Adamawa State. Data was collected using a validated questionnaire titled "Perception of Students on Indecent Dressing Questionnaire" (PSIDQ), which identified 10 causes of indecent dressing, including tight and revealing clothing, sagging, and transparent clothing. The study also revealed 12 negative consequences of indecent dressing on academic performance, such as disruption of the learning environment, negative impact on mental health and well-being, and limitation of career opportunities.

Based on their findings, the authors recommended the implementation of a dress code policy and other measures to curb indecent dressing on campuses. They emphasized the need for a positive attitude towards decent dressing among students to promote their holistic development and encourage positive changes in their behavior. Overall, the study highlighted the importance of addressing indecent dressing in higher learning institutions to improve academic performance and personal development of students.

Bua and Tsav (2014) conducted a study to investigate the impacts of indecent dressing on academic performance among students and teaching staff at the College of Education KatsinaAla in Benue state, Nigeria. The study utilized the ex-post-facto research method and a sample of 400 respondents, which included teaching staff and students from the College of Education

Katsina Ala. The researchers used a structured 10-item questionnaire titled "Causes and Impact of Indecent Dressing Questionnaire" (CIIDQ) to collect data. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were used to analyze the data, with mean and standard deviation used to answer research questions and the chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of fit used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance.

The study found that provocative dressing had negative impacts on academic performance, including distraction during lectures and sexual harassment. Additionally, instances of examination question leakage were attributed to sexual favors offered to lecturers due to indecent dressing. Based on the findings, the researchers recommended that practical initiatives be implemented to educate students on the potential dangers of indecent dressing. They also recommended the introduction of lessons on morality and adherence to cultural norms, and the establishment of a dress code in consultation with the fashion department. The study therefore highlights the negative effects of indecent dressing on academic performance and calls for measures to promote a conducive learning environment.

Opebiyi, Otunaiya & Samuel (2020) conducted a study titled "Indecent Dressing and Its Implications on the Academic Performance of Female Undergraduates: The Tai Solarin University of Education Experience." The study aimed to examine the relationship between indecent dressing and the academic performance of female students in Tai Solarin University of Education, Ogun State, Nigeria.

The study utilized a descriptive survey research design and employed a simple random sampling technique to select 360 female students from the four Colleges in the institution. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire designed by the researchers, which contained demographic information and questions relating to indecent dressing and its implications on academic performance and social lives of the students.

Descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents, while chi-square was used to test the hypothesis formulated for the study.

The study found no significant relationship between indecent dressing and academic performance of female students in Tai Solarin University of Education, but there was a significant relationship between indecent dressing and the social lives of the students. The findings suggest that indecent dressing affects the social lives of female students more than their academic performance.

Based on the findings, the study recommended the organization of conferences, seminars, and workshops for both staff and students to create awareness on the importance of appropriate

clothing behavior in the society. The study underscores the importance of upholding cultural norms and values in shaping students' behavior and promoting positive social interactions.

Osagiobare, Ekwukoma & Ekomaru (2015) embarked on study titled “Forms of indecent dressing among university students in North Central geo-political zone”. The prevalence of indecent dressing on Nigerian university campuses was investigated in this study. The research aimed to address the issue by posing a research question and hypothesis. A questionnaire called "Indecent Dressing in the University Questionnaire (IDUQ)" was utilized to collect data from 300 students randomly selected from six universities in the North Central Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. Frequency counts, percentages, and One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were employed to analyze the data. The results showed that most of the respondents agreed that various forms of indecent dressing, as listed in the questionnaire, were common among university students. Moreover, a significant difference in dressing styles was observed among students from private, state, and federal government-owned universities. Pair-wise comparisons indicated that the difference existed between federal and private universities and state and private universities. However, no significant difference was found between federal and state universities. Based on the findings, it is recommended that university authorities should implement dress codes and strictly enforce them as a measure to curb this social malaise of indecent dressing. This would help to maintain a conducive academic and social environment and reduce the distractions that come with indecent dressing.

The study conducted by Okorie and Okeke (2016) investigated the issue of indecent dressing among Nigerian university students through an empirical investigation. The study aimed to identify the extent of the problem of indecent dressing, its implications, and the factors responsible for such behavior. The study utilized a descriptive survey research design, and the sample size for the study was 500 undergraduate students randomly selected from two universities in Enugu State, Nigeria. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data on the students' dressing patterns, their perception of the issue, and the factors responsible for such behavior. The data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, and chi-square analysis. The study found that a majority of the respondents agreed that indecent dressing was prevalent on their campuses, and that such behavior was influenced by peer pressure, the desire for attention, and the need to fit into a particular group. The study also found that indecent dressing had negative implications on the students' academic performance, social relationships, and self-esteem. The study recommended that university authorities should take decisive measures to address the issue of indecent dressing by introducing dress codes for students, counseling, and sensitization programs on the importance of decent dressing. The study's

findings provide insight into the problem of indecent dressing among Nigerian university students and suggest possible ways to curb the issue.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The prevalence of indecent dressing among Nigerian university undergraduates has emerged as a pervasive and concerning trend. This issue is particularly pronounced among female students who opt for revealing and suggestive attire, and male students who adopt unconventional hairstyles and sagging pants. This trend is gradually being accepted as a norm within the university culture, thereby raising significant questions about its underlying causes and potential consequences.

The complex factors contributing to this phenomenon necessitate exploration. Peer pressure, the absence of effective parental control, the influence of social media, shifting societal values, and the impact of cultural norms collectively create an environment that compels students to engage in indecent dressing as a means to fit in among their peers.

The ramifications of this behavior extend beyond the superficial aspects of appearance. The negative consequences encompass academic distractions that hinder educational pursuits, moral degradation, erosion of cultural values, and, alarmingly, instances of sexual harassment, assault, and rape. This disturbing reality not only jeopardizes the personal growth and academic progression of individual students but also poses a considerable challenge to the overall development of both the university community and the society it serves.

Therefore, investigating the causes and implications of the prevalence of indecent dressing among Nigerian university undergraduates is of paramount importance. This research seeks to shed light on the underlying dynamics that contribute to this trend and to comprehensively understand its impact on academic performance, ethical standards, cultural heritage, and the overall safety and well-being of university students.

This has prompted the researcher to embark on this study and this question is asked: What is the perception of students on indecent dressing among the Undergraduate Students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the perception of students on indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the purpose was to investigate the effects of indecent dressing on undergraduate students' academic performance.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Three research questions were raised for this study.

Research Question 1: What is the level of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State?

Research Question 2: At what level does indecent dressing affect female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State?

Research Question 3: What level of effects do indecent dressing have on male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State?

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive research and survey type design was adopted for the study. The sample in this study consisted 400 undergraduate students, selected by simple random sampling techniques from five departments in AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. The data for this study were collected using questionnaire title Questionnaire on Indecent Dressing among Undergraduate Students (QIDAUs). The questionnaire was designed to measure the effects of indecent dressing among undergraduate students in Ondo. It comprises two sections (section A and B). Section A was used to collect demographic data of the respondents while section B was used to collect data on the effects of indecent dressing, which was sub-divided into two parts. Part one was used to collect data on general level of indecent dressing and Part two was used to collect data on effects of indecent dressing on academic performance of undergraduate students. Each of the part has five items and as such, the total items of the questionnaire were ten items. The validity of the instrument was determined before usage. The reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbachs' Alpha and the coefficient of the reliability was found to be 0.74.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: What is the level of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State?

Data collected on indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State as rated by students were used to answer research question one. The results were presented on Tables 1 to show the level of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State.

Table 1: Level of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State

S/N	Variables	Responses	Responses				\bar{x}
			SA	A	D	SD	
1	Sleeveless tops	F	180	150	40	30	3.2
		%	45	37.5	10	7.5	
2	Mini skirt/ Bum short	F	260	100	30	10	3.5
		%	65	25	7.5	2.5	
3	Transparent cloths	F	250	120	20	10	3.5
		%	62.5	30	5	2.5	
4	CrazyJeans/Sagging	F	200	150	35	15	3.3
		%	50	37.5	3.8	3.8	
5	Body hugs	F	210	140	20	20	3.4
		%	52.5	35	7.5	5	
Percentage Average/ Av. of Means		F	220	132	31	17	3.4
		%	55	33	7.8	4.3	

Source: Field Work, 2022.

The analysis of data on Table 1 by percentage point revealed the level of agreement of students on indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, strongly agree (55%), agree (33%), disagree (7.8%), and strongly disagree (4.3%) . The grand mean of 3.4 implies a higher degree of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Research Question 2: At what level does indecent dressing affect female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State?

Data collected on effects of indecent dressing on academic performance of female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State as rated by students were used to answer research question two. The results were presented on Tables 2 to show the level at which indecent dressing affect female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State.

Table 2: Level at which indecent dressing affect female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State

S/N	Variables	Responses	Responses				\bar{x}
			SA	A	D	SD	
1	Disallowed from classes	F	150	70	20	10	3.5
		%	60	28	8	4	
2	Loss of concentration	F	170	60	15	5	3.6
		%	68	24	6	2	
3	Inconveniences	F	160	70	16	4	3.5
		%	64	28	6.4	16	
4	Missing of tests	F	120	80	30	20	3.2
		%	48	32	12	8	
5	Poor performances	F	180	50	18	2	3.6
		%	72	20	7.2	0.8	
Percentage Average/ Av. of Means		F	156	66	19.8	8.2	3.5
		%	62.4	26.4	7.9	3.3	

Source: Field Work, 2022.



The analysis of data on Table 2 by percentage point revealed the level of agreement of students on effects of indecent dressing on female undergraduate students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, strongly agree (62.4%), agree (26.4%), disagree (7.9%), and strongly disagree (3.3%). The grand mean of 3.5 implies that indecent dressing affects the academic performance of the majority of undergraduate female students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Research Question 3: What level of effects do indecent dressing have on male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State?

Data collected on effects of indecent dressing on academic performance of male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State as rated by students were used to answer research question three. The results were presented on Tables 3 to show the level at which indecent dressing affect male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State.

Table 3: Level at which indecent dressing affect male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State

S/N	Variables	Responses	Responses				\bar{x}
			SA	A	D	SD	
1	Disallowed from classes	F	82	48	15	5	3.3
		%	54.7	32	10	3.3	
2	Loss of concentration	F	85	45	16	4	3.4
		%	56.7	30	10.7	2.7	
3	Inconveniences	F	75	50	20	5	3.3
		%	50	33.3	13.3	3.3	
4	Missing of tests	F	81	50	12	7	3.4
		%	54	33.3	8	4.7	
5	Poor performances	F	70	60	15	5	3.3
		%	46.7	40	10	3.3	
Percentage Average/ Av. of Means		F	78.6	50.6	15.6	5.2	3.3
		%	52.4	33.7	10.4	3.4	

Source: Field Work, 2022.

The analysis of data on Table 3 by percentage point revealed the level of agreement of students on effects of indecent dressing on male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, strongly agree (52.4%), agree (33.7%), disagree (10.4%), and strongly disagree (3.4%) . The grand mean of 3.4 implies that indecent dressing affects the academic performance of the majority of undergraduate male students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

DISCUSSIONS

Research question one examined the level of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State. The results indicated that there is higher degree of indecent dressing among undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Research question two examined the extent to which indecent dressing affect female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State. The results indicated that indecent dressing affects the academic performance of the majority of undergraduate female students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Research question three examined the extent to which indecent dressing affect male undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State. The results indicated that indecent dressing affects the academic performance of the majority of undergraduate male students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The research findings have confirmed the effects of indecent dressing on academic performance of undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. It has been established that indecent dressing affect the academic performance of both male and female undergraduate students of AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that academic performance of undergraduate students can be improved positively by encouraging the students to cultivate the habit of decent dressing at all time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to this study, the underlisted recommendations are made to enable parents and tertiary institutions to curb indecent dressing among the undergraduate students in AdekunleAjasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. This will make AdekunleAjasin University a pacesetter.

1. Parents should instill moral values in their children.
2. Parents should ensure that their children dress decently.
3. Tertiary institutions should implement dress codes for students.
4. Tertiary institutions should sensitize students on the importance of decent dressing.
5. Tertiary institutions should conduct orientation for new students on dress code policy.
6. Tertiary institutions should establish a disciplinary committee to enforce dress code policy.
7. Tertiary institutions should create awareness on the negative consequences of indecent dressing.

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