



Deviance Behaviour among Students in Tertiary Institutions

Amos Okukwe Ololube

Department of Educational Foundation
Faculty of Education
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Nigeria

Alozie Vivian Dibu

Department of Educational Foundation
Faculty of Education
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Nigeria

Abstract

This work set out to investigate deviance behaviour among students in tertiary institutions in Rivers state. It further examine the concept of deviance behaviour, types, causes, effects and the control method adopted by management of tertiary institutions to curtail deviance behaviour on campus. Questionnaire was source of data collected and the data collected was analyze using mean, standard deviation and z-test statistical tool to strengthen the validity of the findings. The sample size of this study comprised 130 respondents. The study found that there is no significant difference between the rating of male and female students on the effect of deviance behaviour on academic achievement. Finally, the study points out that mass media, peer group influence and broken home are the major causes of deviance behaviour in tertiary Institutions Rivers State.

Keywords: Deviance, Behavior, Tertiary, Institutions

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

Ololube, A. O., & Dibu A. V. (2019). Deviance behaviour among students in tertiary institutions. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 12(5), 598-607. Retrieved [DATE] from <http://www.ij sre.com>.

Copyright © 2019 IJSRE

INTRODUCTION

Deviance is one of the social problems facing the tertiary institutions today, deviance as violation of social norms and values has occupied the center of discussion in tertiary institution. When we think of the term deviance immediately our mind focuses on something that is negative, something

that one would not want to be link with, something that is universally unacceptable such as murder and rape, we think of the prostitute and beggars in the street of Port Harcourt or even think of students who engaged in cultism, examination malpractices, lesbianism and gay, etc.

Although, some scholars have acknowledge that deviance as violation of social norms and values is part and parcel of all human society because deviance in most cases strengthened the social norms and values in the society. That is without deviance rules and regulations will not be observed in the society. Nevertheless, they frown at the extent which deviance has spread in institutions of higher learning, deviance inform of examination malpractices, indecent dressing, cultism, stealing, truancy, delinquency, lesbianism, gay and exchange of sex for money and mark.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Deviance Behavior

Deviance behaviour as a social menace has been defined by various scholars and authorities depending on their experiences, environment and ideas or view in a given time. According to Ekpeyong (1996) deviance is a behaviour that varies sufficiently from the norms of a group that if known, it would become a defensive or legitimate basis for negative sanctions in informal interaction. In the same vein, Egbezor (2001) stipulate that deviance behaviour is those activities of man that remain indifferent to approved norms of the members of the group or society. Nwaenyi and Ezewu (1983) assert that deviance means non conformity to standards of behaviour of a group. They further explain that norms as rules or standards defined the behaviour of people in a group or society. From the above definitions, the researcher agreed that deviance is any behaviour that violate the norms and values of the group or society. It means acting in amanner that differentiates the individual from others in a group or society.

Nevertheless, deviance varies from group to group, society to society and from time to time. One group may regards certain actions as deviance while elsewhere in another group is necessarily not a deviance, what other society says is deviance may not be seen as such in another society, because deviance is culturally determined and it changes as the culture of the society change. Of course, most of the things we considered normal today are seen as deviance some years back. Therefore, an act is said to be deviance when is perceived as such by members of the society.

Tertiary Institution

The tertiary institution is also known as postsecondary education; it is the non-compulsory education that followed after the secondary education. The tertiary institution is the education given after secondary education in University, College of Education, Polytechnic, Monotechnic including those institutions offering corresponding courses (Wali, 2007).

The tertiary institutions as the third tier of education in Nigeria have been known for the following goals.

- Contribute to national development through high level relevant manpower training.
- Develop and inculcate the right values for survival of the individual and the society.
- Develop the intellectual capacity of the individual to understand and appreciate their local and external environment.

- To help the individual acquire both physical and intellectual skills that will help the individual to be self-reliant and useful to the society which he or she belong.
- To cement national unity and at the same time promote national and international understanding and interaction (NPE, 2004).

There is no doubt that the goals of tertiary institution is not beautiful, but the question is has the tertiary institution been able to achieve this beautiful goals completely without any factor militating against it? The answer to the question raise in the forgoing paragraph is capital No and some of this factors are deviance behaviour on the part of the students.

Type of deviance behaviour in tertiary institutions

There are different types of deviance behaviours in tertiary institutions in Rivers state, but we shall discuss five of them namely:

- **Cultism:** Cultism is one of the deviance behaviour that has threatening life, property and the academic activities in tertiary institution today. A cult group is a group of persons who come together to execute a particular goal that is only known by members. Their offences range from killing, rape, stealing, harassment and intimidation etc.
- **Extortion:** It is a situation where students steal from fellow student; this act is very common today in our tertiary institutions especially among female students. They steal money, handset, pad, necklace, books, cloths, shoes and even provision from fellow students.
- **Fashion:** In fact, fashion is one of the most popular forms of deviance in tertiary institutions. It is a situation where students dress indecently to attract attention. For instance, some students wear clothes that show parts of their body which ordinary is not supposed to be seen by another. It is common in tertiary institutions to see male student's sag there are trouser showing their dirty boxers inside while female students put on miniskirt and transparent cloths all in the name of fashion.
- **Examination malpractice:** Examination malpractice is a situation in which students go into the examination centers with various items to enable them obtain high grade than there are own preparation and knowledge. It manifest in form of copying, passing information and impersonation at examination.
- **Protest/Demonstration:** It is an expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent of rules and regulations which the students considered harmful to them.

Causes of Deviance Behaviours in Tertiary Institution

There are various factors that are responsible for deviance behaviours in tertiary institutions. Ololube (2012) highlighted the following as causes of deviance behaviour in education system.

- **Administrative style:** A number of administrations in higher institution are autocratic and maintain hostile relationship with staff and students. They rarely involved the members of the school community in decision making process and they bound students Unionism at will and the students feel threatened and provoked on campus.

- Peer Group Influence: Peer group influence each other through the process of interaction and socialization. It is possible for a student with good conduct to manifest deviance if such student associates with students who are deviate.
- Mass media: Through the mass media the students have access to some print, audio and audio visual material that influence the learner in a negative form and the knowledge the student acquired through this materials contributed to acquisition of deviance, because the student not just watch or read alone, but put to practice what they have gather thereby constituting deviance in the society.
- Broken home. Family is the first institution the child attends and they are responsible in teaching norms and values the society demanded from her citizens, so parents played a crucial role in this process. If both or one of the parents is absent by death or other reason, the child fails to get proper learning, required affection and needs satisfaction in the family. The child becomes emotionally depress and seeks protection in the company of others outside the family. The child learns anti-social activities like smoking, gambling, pick pocketing, drug abuse, telling lie and others deviance behaviours in association with bad neighbours. The implication is that, when the child gained admission into tertiary institution, he or she will manifest this behaviour on campus thereby violating the established standard of behaviours in the institutions.
- Conformity-deviance from one's group's standards is often conformity to another's. If people with whom a student associates with are deviate, then the student is likely to follow. When members of a peer group approve of certain activities, new and old member will tend to adopt the same behaviour if there are to be recognized as a member of such group.

Effect of Deviance Behaviour on Student's Academic Achievement

The effect of deviance behaviour on student's academic achievement in tertiary institutions is stated as follows:

- Lack of concentration on academic activities. Students who are deviate don't have time to read and prepare for examination. Instead of reading they preferred going to parties, chatting on social Medias and gossip.
- Low grade in examination result. Because they hardly have time to read, they end up having low grade in examination.
- Frustration or drop out of school. Because they willingly chose to indulge in deviance behaviour, when there are caught in these act the university expelled them from the institutions. Most time they drop out of school on their own after much failure and frustration.
- Infections. Most of the students who are deviate are exposed to various deadly diseases. For instance, when they go to night clubs, they drink all manner of alcoholic drinks and these drinks intoxicate them and most time they engaged in unprotected sexual intercurs which expose there body systems to various kinds of sexual transmitted diseases (STD).

Deviance and Social Control System in Tertiary Institution

Over the past decades, various attempts have been made to deal with the problem of deviance in higher institution, although despite the effort of government, scholars and individual in educational sector and outside the section, yet the issues of deviance behaviour keep waxing stronger in our tertiary institutions today. Nevertheless, the various measures adopted to deal with the problem of deviance in tertiary institutions are as follows:

- The university management set up security apparatus such as anti-cultism unit to checkmate deviance behaviour among students on campus. When a student is caught and found equity of cult related activities, such student is expelled from the university and then handed over to law enforcement agency for prosecution.
- Ogbondah and Ekwueme (2005) observe that management of university organize orientation programme in every new academic session to enlightened new and old students the dangers associated with deviance behaviours within the university system and that of the macro society.
- Worlu (2007) noted that students who engaged in examination malpractice are expelled from the university.
- Sometimes students who engaged in protest or demonstration are suspended from the university for one academic session or more depending on the gravity of the protest.

Statement of Problem

Deviance as violation of norms and values system in tertiary institution has drawn attention from all well-meaning Nigerians, although deviance has been there in our tertiary institutions over a decade, but one will question the extent deviance behaviour has escalated as fast and horrible as now. Precisely, this issue of deviance behaviour is applicable everywhere, The daily time newspaper of 7th July 2019 reported that four (4) female students of Kabi State College of Science and Technology were expelled from the college for engaging in lesbianism.

The premium newspaper of 2nd August 2017 reported that six (6) students of university of Port Harcourt in department of pharmaceutical science were caught in examination malpractice and were expelled from the university. The eagle online news of 24th December 2016 reported that two (2) students of university of Port Harcourt were expelled from the University for assaulting female lecturer and disrupting congress meeting of the department. Again the premium newspaper of 7th march 2017 reported that ten (10) students of Rivers state university who were involve in examination malpractice were expelled from the university and the tide newspaper of 4th march 2016 reported that twenty (20) students from Ignatius Ajuru University of Education who were involved in examination malpractice were expelled from the university. Following this scenario, it is an evident that deviance behaviour exist in tertiary institutions hence, this study aim to investigate deviance behaviour among students in tertiary institutions in Rivers state.

Objectives of the study

The objective of this study is to investigate deviance behaviours among tertiary institutions students in Rivers state. Specifically the study aim to:

- Identify reason why students indulge in deviance behaviour in tertiary institution in Rivers state.
- Examine the effect of deviance behaviour on students' academic achievement in tertiary institutions in Rivers state
- Measures put in place by management of tertiary institutions in Rivers state to curtail deviance behaviour.

Theoretical Framework

The sociological theory adopted in this study is differential association theory. The differential association theory was founded by Edwin Sutherland in 1950s, (history of Sutherland). The theory explained that through interaction, communication and socialization in the society, individuals learn the values, attitudes, techniques, and motives for criminal behaviours. Albert Bandura (1977) agreed with Sutherland, but differs in approach, Bandura observe that People learn through observing others' behaviours and attitudes. He further explain that observing others, one forms an idea of how new behaviours are performed, and on later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for action.

Differential association theory focuses on how individuals learn to become criminals, the theory suggests that individual learn how to commit criminal acts through socialization and interaction in the society. According to Eguavoen (2006), socialization is the process through which cultural values, norms; behaviours and skills characteristics of a society are transmitted to its young and potential members. It is imperative to note that the same process through which an individual learn the cultural values and norms of the society is not different from that which people learn criminal behaviour in the society. For instance, A child learn how to conform to the cultural values and norms through the process of interaction and socialization in the society, the same way the child learn criminal behaviours in the society. However, the contents of learning cultural values and norms of the society vary from that of criminal behaviour. For instance, a child that associate with a criminal for a long period of time will Master all the strategies and procedures used by criminal gang's to perfect their dubious goals in society, compared to a child that just started association with a criminal.

Differential association theory predicts that an individual will choose the criminal path when the balance of definitions for law-breaking exceeds those for law-abiding. In other words, criminal behaviour emerges when one is exposed to more social messages favouring criminal conduct in the society or within a group. Although, differential association may vary in frequency and duration. Frequency and duration refers to how often and how long associations occur.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design method. The study considered variables such as Gender (Female and Male).The population for the study were 2108 students from two Universities, one college of health science and one polytechnic in Rivers state, Nigeria. One hundred and thirty (130) students were used to represent 10% of the entire population. The breakdown of students selected is shown in the table below.

S/N	Tertiary institution	Male Student	Female Student	TOTAL
1	UNIPORT	25	20	45
2	IAUE	20	15	35
3	College of Health Science	17	13	30
4	Elechi Amadi Polytechnic	10	10	20
	TOTAL	72	58	130

Research Design

The research design adopted in this study is the survey design because large numbers of participants are easily studied through the use of a representative sample and questionnaire.

Population for the Study

The population of the study consists of students from tertiary institutions in Rivers state. The population for the study is one thousand three hundred (1300) students from two universities and one college of education and polytechnic in Rivers state. One hundred and thirty (130) students were used to represent ten percent (10%) of the entire population.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size for the study is one hundred and thirty (130) representing ten percent (10%) of the entire population. The sampling technique adopted were stratified sample technique which was used to determine the size of the study by grouping the population into difference strata.

Data Collection

Structured questionnaire and oral interview were used to get information on deviance among tertiary institutions students in Rivers state with reference to University of Port Harcourt, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, College of Health Science and Elechi Amadi Polytechnic. The questionnaires were divided into two sections: section "A" contain personal information and section "B" for variable items base on modified likert scale format.

Validity

The questionnaires were given to some research expert at Ignatius Ajuru University of Education for vetting and validation and the recommendation made were used in the final version of the instrument.

Reliability

The reliability of the instrument were determined by the use of test and retest method to ensure the reliability of the research instrument.

Administration of Instrument

The researcher administered one hundred and thirty (130) copies of the instrument to sample respondents for the study.

Method of Data Analysis

The data were analyzed qualitatively using tables. The researchers used parametric statistical tools. This is chosen because the parametric statistics is used to examined research question and hypotheses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the study is presented in relevant table followed by its interpretation.

Table 1: What are the reasons why students indulge in deviance behaviour in tertiary institution in Rivers State? (Questionnaire items 1-7)

Source of variation	N	X	SD
IAUE & Uniport	80	3.23	1.45
College of Health Sciences & Elechi Amandi Poly.	50	3.09	1.44

Standard deviation reference mean = 2.50

The table above indicates that the mean value from Ignatius Ajuru University of Education and University of Port Harcourt and College of Health Sciences & Elechi Amadi Polytechnic is greater than the reference mean of 2.50. This implies that the respondents agreed that broken home, mass media, peer group influence and leadership style are the reasons why students indulge in deviance in tertiary institutions in Rivers state.

Table 2: The effect of deviance behaviour on academic achievement of students in tertiary institutions in Rivers state (Questionnaire items 8-12)

Source of variation	N	X	SD
IAUE & Uniport	80	2.75	1.4
College of Health Science & Elechi Amandi Poly.	50	3.13	1.9

The table revealed that IAUE and Uniport had a mean score of 2.75 and College of Health Science and Elechi Amandi Polytechnic 3.13 respectively. By implication, this means that deviance behaviour affects academic achievement of students in tertiary institutions in Rivers state.

Table 3: What are the Measures put in Place by Management of Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State to Curtailed Deviance (Questionnaire items 12-17)

Source of variation	N	X	SD
IAUE & Uniport	80	3.46	1.26
College of Health Sciences and Elechi Amandi Poly.	50	3.47	1.24

Table 3 shows that IAUE, Uniport, College of Health Sciences and Elechi Amandi Polytechnic had mean score of 3.46 and 3.47. In essence, there is no significant difference on the measure adopted by management of the four institutions selected for the study to curtailed deviance on campus.

Hypotheses testing

The purpose of this study and its hypotheses guided the data analysis. The hypotheses were formulated with the questionnaire and it provided answer to specific items on questionnaire. The results of the hypotheses are presented in table followed by its interpretation.

Table 5: Z-test of differences in view of IAUE and Uniport, College of Health Science and Elechi Amadi Polytechnic on the reasons why students indulge in deviance in tertiary institutions.

Subject	N	X	SD	DF	Z-cal	Z-tab
IAUE & Uniport	80	3.23	1.45			
College of Health Sciences & Elechi Amandi Poly.	50	3.09	1.44	128	6.4	1.96

Level of significance = 5% =0.05

The table indicates that the value of Z-cal is 6.4 and the value of Z-tab is 1.96 with 128 degrees of freedom at 5% level of significance. The result obviously shows that Z-cal (6.4) is greater than the Z-tab (1.96). This implies that the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis accepted. Therefore, there is significant difference on the reasons why students indulge in deviance behaviour in tertiary institutions in Rivers state.

Table 6: Z-test of differences in view of IAUE & Uniport and College of Health Sciences & Elechi Amadi Polytechnic on the effect of deviance behaviour on students' academic achievement in tertiary institutions.

Subject	N	X	SD	DF	Z-cal	Z-tab
IAUE & Uniport	80	2.75	1.4			
College of Health Sciences & Elechi Amandi Poly.	50	3.13	1.9	128	1.6	1.96

Level of significance = 5% =0.05

The table revealed that the value of Z-calare 1.6 and 1.96 respectively, tested at 128 and 5% level of significance. From all indications, it is obvious that the value of Z-cal (1.6) is less than the value of Z-tab (1.96). Meaning no significant difference on the extent deviance affects academic achievement of students in IAUE, Uniport, College of Health Sciences and Elechi Amandi Polytechnic in Rivers State.

Table 7: Z-test of differences in view of IAUE &Uniport and College of Health Sciences & Elechi Amadi Polytechnic on the measures adapted to curtailed deviance on campus

Subject	N	X	SD	DF	Z-cal	Z-tab
IAUE & Uniport	80	2.75	1.25			
College of health science & Elechi Amandi Poly.	50	2.73	1.37	128	1.0	1.96

Level of significance = 5% =0.05

Table 7 revealed that the value of Z-cal and Z-tab are 1.0 and 1.96 respectively, the result indicates that the Z-cal value is less than the Z-tab value. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence there is no significant difference between IAUE, Uniport, College of health science and ElechiAmandi Polytechnic on the measures adapted to curtailed deviance on campus.

CONCLUSION

This study has examined deviance behaviour and academic achievement among students in tertiary institutions in Rivers state, Nigeria. The study revealed that students who are deviate performed low in examination, lack of concentration and frustration, even drop out of school. Students with established cases of cult involvement should be expelled and parents should give proper attention and monitor their wards at home and in school.

Recommendations

- Students who are deviate should be expelled or suspended from the institutions to serve as lesson to others.
- Management should setup group that will checkmate the behaviour of students on campus.

REFERENCES

- Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*. Retrieved from www.simplepsychology.org
- Eagle online news paper (2016). Retrieved from <https://schoonews.org>
- Edwin Sutherland (1950). *Differential association theory*. Retrieved from www.Sutherlandtheory.ng.
- Ekpeyong, S. I. (1996). *Element of sociology of Education*. Owerri: Springfield Publishers.
- Ezewu, E. (1983). *Sociology of Education*. Lagos: Longan Nigeria.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004). *National Policy on Education*. Retrieved from www.npe.org.
- Nwaenyi, K. E. O., & Egbezor, D. E. (2001). *Sociology of Education for Contemporary Students in Tertiary Institutions*. Akure: Stebark Publishers.
- Ogbondah, L. (2005). *Sociological Foundation of Education*. Port Harcourt: Harry publication.
- Ololube N.P (2012). *Sociology of education and society*. Owerri: Springfield Publisher.
- Premium Newspaper (2017). Retrieved from <https://schoolnewsng.com>>rust.
- Tide Newspaper (2016). Retrieved from <https://myshoolnewsiaue.com>.