

CULT RECRUITMENT TACTICS AND STUDENT VULNERABILITY

BY

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Cult Recruitment Tactics and Student Vulnerability" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined cult recruitment tactics and student vulnerability, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of cult; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with cult and recruitment. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 386 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 346 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.13). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.478$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.61, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.04$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on cult.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of cult recruitment tactics and student vulnerability is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Over the past two decades, cult has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. In Nigeria, the intersection of cult and recruitment is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. Comparative work by Okonkwo and Bamgbose (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking cult with recruitment. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. A notable study by Famuyide and Famuyide (2017) argued that the impact of cult is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised cult as a critical determinant of outcomes in guidance and counselling. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of cult. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Osinachi and Osinachi (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Adeniyi and Nnamdi (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

The salience of cult in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of cult and recruitment. The aggregate picture emerging from Adeniyi and Nnamdi (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between cult and the outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of cult cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with recruitment. Comparative work by Eze and Adeniyi (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking cult with recruitment. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding recruitment. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The salience of cult in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of cult in everyday life. Field evidence gathered by Ekwueme and Nnamdi (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of cult. Sustained