

MENACE OF CULTISM IN NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: MANIFESTATION OF NATIONAL DECADENCE

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Abstract

One of the greatest social crimes which is very rampant in Universities, Colleges of Education and Polytechnics all over the Country is cultism. It is a social menace which is not restricted to only the institutions of higher learning but that which is a common phenomenon that characterizes the entire society - the secondary schools are not left behind. Viewed from the sociological angle, educational system performs the principal role of transmitting the cultural values of society as well as promotes social change through the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. It was revealed that the cause of the reign of terror on campuses cannot be divorced from the proliferation of cults which compete for dominance, recognition and exhibition of wits and vigour. Rather than seek the solution to campus terrorism within the fundamentals of societal decadence, it should be seen as a normal development in a competitive world, especially when the desired goals are aesthetic. This study sets out to examine the causes and menace of cultism and their negative impact on our educational institutions. The socializing agencies relationship and other motivational issues are identified as the fundamental and causative factors in the society. Students are product of their environments. The family, the school, the peer group and the larger society cannot escape the blame over the negative comportment of the students. The study proffers solutions based on the theory that it is what we sowed that we reap in the youths. To combat cultism on campuses therefore, there is a need for serious overhauling of the primary socializing agencies of the society.

Keywords: Cultism, Social Crimes, Secret Societies, Socializing Agencies, National Decadence