
ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF INDECENT DRESSING AND PROMISCUITY AMONG FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY, EKPOMA

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Abstract

This study assessed the level of indecent dressing and promiscuity among female undergraduate students' undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. The study specifically sought to examine forms of indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity as well as determined the level of indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. This study employed the descriptive research design. The population covered all the 27,388 regular undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. A sample size of 546 students was selected for the study. The instrument used for the collection of data was a questionnaire titled: "Students Indecent dressing and Sexual Promiscuity Questionnaire - SIDSEPO". The test-retest method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. Research questions were analyzed using mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (S.D). A mean score of 2.50 was used as the benchmark for determining students' perception on the item statements while all the hypotheses tested at .05 level of significance using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS23). The result showed that wearing of body exposing attires and excessive make-overs are the forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. It was recommended that the university management should institute policies on faculty dress code in other to ensure students are disciplined in their way of dressing.

Introduction

Universities are institutions established to contribute to national growth through the development of human capital. They are institutions of higher learning that are established to speed up the rate of human, socio-economic and political development of a nation. This is because a developed society is one that has quality manpower and each occupying his or her rightful position to enhance the growth of the society. Thus, the importance of universities at the tertiary level of education in any developing country

like Nigeria cannot be overemphasized.

The goals of university education as clearly spelt out by the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) (2013) under the national policy on education are to: (a) contribute to national development through high level relevant manpower training; (b) develop and inculcate proper values for the survival of the individual and society; (c) develop the intellectual capability of individuals to understand and appreciate their local and external environment; (d) acquire both physical and intellectual skills which will

enable individuals to be self-reliant and useful members of the society; (e) promote and encourage scholarship and community service; (f) forge and cement national unity; and (g) promote national and international understanding and interaction. According to Odutayo and Ojo (2024), the attainment of the aforementioned goals has been bedeviled with a myriad of challenges such as incessant strike actions by university staff (academic and non-academic), cultism, indecent dressing, academic dishonesty, student riot and even sexual promiscuity among student.

Sexual promiscuity is the act of indulging or having sexual intercourse with several casual acquaintances. Nwiko et al. (2022) opined that sexual promiscuity is the use of one's body for the purpose of sexual gratification, remuneration or any other form of consideration. Indecent dressing covers four basic forms namely: a) involvement in commercial sex; b) survival sex; c) casual/unprotected sex; and d) physical sexual assault. Involvement in commercial sex is common among undergraduates who trade their bodies in exchange for money to "sugar daddies and mummies", random men and itinerant people who travel from time to time to seek the company of young ladies or men in hotels, motels and other accommodation facilities. Survival sex in the Latin term is known as *quid pro quo* which literally means "give and take". In the university system, survival sex can be seen in instances of sex for grade, sex for gifts materials, connections or fame. Casual/unprotected

sex is one aspect of sexual promiscuity that often takes the form of having protected/unprotected sex with multiple sexual partners while physical sexual assault meted on the opposite sex such as unwelcome sexual harassments like grabbing, touching, caressing, and even extreme cases of date raping.

Discussing the level of sexual promiscuity, Odutayo and Ojo (2024) opined that sexual promiscuity is very rampant in our universities as most students stand outside their hostels and halls to solicit for "businesses". The hardened ones who see their campuses as too boring do not operate inside the university campuses. They brazenly take their trade directly to their customers at night to nearby cities, clubs or hot spots that would give them maximum exposure to men who will like to patronize them. According to Saheed et al. (2024) one of the causes is dereliction of parental responsibilities, peer influence on campus, insatiable desire for material things, moral decadence, lack of sexual control, and indecent dressing among others.

There is a high level of subjectivism in people's understanding of what indecent dressing is. However, in most public places like the university, Odutayo and Ojo (2024) submitted that the two forms of indecent dressing common among undergraduates include: a) wearing of heavy makeup/ makeover; and b) wearing revealing apparels/clothing that does not conform with the dictates of the faculty/department. Most female students

wear heavy makeup such as artificial eye contact lens, perfumes, lipstick while the males sometimes have strange haircuts and dye their hair in awkward colours or things. In regards to wearing of sexual erosive dresses, many undergraduates wear clothe that exposes their chest, breast, cleavage, waistline and even buttocks. These forms of dressing pattern all constitute indecent dressing.

Dressing has lost most of its values in this age of unisex and gender cross over. Certain styles of dressing are regarded by many as a serious threat to cultural values of a society. Doubtlessly, in Nigeria, certain dressing styles/codes are alien. Some forms of indecent dressing are a product of modelling top movie stars. Sometimes, these movie stars dress to complement the parts they play in a movie. The trend in both local and foreign movies in terms of fashion has turned to be a model for many youths in Nigeria. This has constituted a menace among a greater proportion of Nigerian youths. From the religious perspective, people are expected to dress modesty especially the women. This is to avoid attracting unnecessary attention which in turn arouses sexual urge from other people in induces sexual promiscuity.

According to Odutayo and Ojo (2024) women that expose their private parts by wearing short skirts, sleeveless clothes, and transparent wears among others, stand the risk of being raped, being sexually harassed and being involved in indiscriminate sexual behaviour such as

having multiple sex partners and casual sex. According to them, this is because indecent dressing can be used to gratify internal sexual pressure that is present within individuals. Whether in private or public places, code of dressing tends to give a perception of one's ability to preserve specific heritage and social values in the midst of modern civilization and technology.

Studies on indecent dressing sexual promiscuity has been carried out by scholars recently. Obeta and Uwah (2015) examined determinants of dressing patterns of female undergraduate students in tertiary institutions in Abia State, Nigeria. The findings of the study showed among others that female students were fond of wearing transparent clothes, skimpy tops and heavy make ups to class. In another related study Gbadegbe and Quashie (2013) noted that not a day passes without some complaint or the other by colleague students, visitors, lecturers, non-teaching staff or some other persons about the provocative dressing of higher institution students, most especially the girls. Okafor and Duru (2013) examined the relationship between indecent dressing and sexual harassment amongst undergraduates of Nasarawa State University, Keffi. Result among others, showed that the level of sexual indecent dressing among undergraduates was low.

Gbadegbe and Quashie (2013) investigated the impacts or effects nudity or indecent dressing has on the academic performance of Ho Polytechnic students in Ghana. Result from the study showed that about 60% of Ho

Polytechnic students of Ghana dress indecently as many males wear saggy trousers, and many women wear clothes that reveal sensitive parts of their body. It was concluded that the level of indecent dressing was high. Udigwe et al. (2014) assessed factors influencing the sexual promiscuity behaviour among female adolescents in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. Results showed that the highest proportion of students who had ever had sex was found among the 16-17years age group while the modal age group was 18-19years for non-students. They concluded therefore that the prevalence of sexual promiscuity behaviour such as unprotected casual sex was found to be really high. Soboka and Kejela (2015) assessed sexual promiscuity behaviours among Arba Minch University Students, Ethiopia. Results among the 404 participants showed that majority (N=127, 31.4%) reported having at least one sexual promiscuity behaviour in their lifetime. Hence, the authors concluded that the prevalence of sexual promiscuity behavior among Arba Minch University students was high.

In universities today, most undergraduates have dropped their traditional clothing styles to foreign as many of them have dropped their cultural attires and adopted western dress styles for everyday wears. These dressing patterns or styles are regarded as sexy fashion which allowed a degree of display of the body for male appraisal and approval. These styles or patterns were not previously experienced in the streets because they were the ultimate in decadent behaviour. The female undergraduate students have completely

shifted to this crazy dressing pattern that makes them appear half naked most of the time.

Ku (2003) stated that indecent appearance has become the order of the day among many undergraduates in higher institutions of learning. The students of these campuses particularly the females sometimes dress provocatively and seductively; leaving much to be discussed. Female undergraduates try to dress as they see others dress or as a result of what is in vogue, not actually knowing the sexual implications of their dressing among the opposite sex. Although, some scholars have investigated the influence of indecent dressing on sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in tertiary institutions in several States of Nigeria like Abia State (Obeta &Uwah, 2015), Nasarawa State (Chukwudi &Gbakorun, 2011)and in Maiduguri (Abdullahi & Umar, 2013). Hence, to best of the researcher's knowledge know study on the forms and level of committal of indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in universities is Edo State has been carried in other study, It is on this premise that this research work is set out to survey indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.

Research Questions

This study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

2. What is the level of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?
3. What are the forms of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?
4. What is the level of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?
5. Is there any sex difference in the level of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?
6. Is there any sex difference in the level of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

Methods

This study employed the descriptive research design to examine indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. This research design has been considered appropriate for the study because a representative sample was drawn to describe the opinion of students from the population. Hence, inferences would be drawn on the population from a sample without manipulating the data collected from the survey. The population of this study covered all the 27,388 female undergraduate students in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma in the 2021/2022 academic session. A sample size of 546 students were selected for the study. The proportional random sampling technique was used to select 2% of the total number of students across each of the faculties in the institution. The proportionate random was used in other

to draw a sample from a homogenous group or stratum (which represented faculties in this study).

The instrument used for the collection of data was a questionnaire titled: “Students Indecent Dressing and Sexual Promiscuity Questionnaire (SIDSE PQ)”. The questionnaire LACOQ was divided into Sections A and B. Section A contains personal information of students such as sex of participants while Section B was used to collect information about undergraduates' perception on the forms and level of indecent dressing in the institution. Section B was divided into four parts of Part 1 to 4. Part 1 and 2 of Section B deals with the forms and level of indecent dressing among undergraduates while Part 3 and 4 of Section B covers the forms and level of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, respectively. All the items on forms of indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity were rated on a four-point scale of Strongly Agreed (SA) -4, Agreed (A) -3, Disagreed (D) -2 and Strongly Disagreed (SD) -1 while items on level of indecent dressing and sexual promiscuity were rated on a four-point scale of Always - 4, Often, 3, Sometimes -2, Rarely - 1.

Students are all expected to choose one of the options that best applies to them on each of the items in the questionnaire. The test-retest method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. Research question 1 was analyzed using mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S.D). A mean score of 2.50 was used as the benchmark for determining students' perception on the item

statements. This was obtained by adding up the four point responses (e.g Strongly Agreed -4, Agreed -3, Disagreed -2 and Strongly Disagreed -1) and dividing the sum of the scales 10 by the total number of scales

four to give 2.50. Hence, a score of 2.50 or higher represented positive perception or high involvement while means score of 0 to 2.49 was taken otherwise.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

Research Question 1 was analysed using mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S.D) as shown in Table 1. A benchmark of 2.50 was used a criterion mean for decision making on the items and over mean.

Table 1: Mean and Standard score on forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma Edo State

S/n	Items	N = 524		
		\bar{X}	SD	Remarks
Wearing of body exposing attires				
1	Wearing extremely tight clothing that show one’s body shape	2.71*	.969	Agreed
2	Wearing clothes that exposes one’s chest/breast	2.63*	.873	Agreed
3	Wearing trousers(shirts) that are below the waist line	2.59*	.932	Agreed
4	Wearing skimpy clothing	2.65*	1.015	Agreed
Overall mean = 2.65				
Excessive make-overs				
5	Spraying one’s hair cut or hair do	2.52*	.996	Agreed
6	Wearing too much body perfume	2.77*	1.102	Agreed
7	Wearing too much of face make up	2.45	.906	Disagreed
8	Wearing nose/eye piercings	2.41	1.066	Disagreed
9	Wearing artificial eye contacts/screes	2.46	1.099	Disagreed
10	Having tattoos/body paintings	2.41	1.069	Disagreed
Overall mean = 2.50				

* Significant mean ($\bar{X} \geq 2.50$)

Result in Table 2 showed that majority of the students agreed on items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and6 at a mean score range of 2.52 to 2.77 and disagreed with items7, 8, 9 and 10 at mean

score range of 2.41 to 2.46. The overall mean score of items 1-4 bordering on wearing of body exposing attires is 2.65while that on items 5-10 bordering on excessive make-

overs is 2.50. Since the overall mean of wearing of body exposing attires and excessive make-overs are greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 ($\bar{X} = 2.65$ and $2.50 > 2.50$). Hence, this implies that wearing of

body exposing attires and excessive make-overs are the forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.

Research Question 2: What is the level of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

Research Question 2 was analyzed using mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S.D) as shown in Table 3. A benchmark of 2.50 was used a criterion mean for decision making on the items and over mean.

Table 2: Mean and Standard score on level of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

S/n	Items	N = 524		
		\bar{X}	SD	Remarks
1	Wearing extremely tight clothing that show one's body shape	2.73*	.970	Hig
2	Wearing clothes that exposes one's chest/breast	2.64*	.876	Hig
3	Wearing trousers(shi rts) that are below the waist line	2.60*	.935	Hig
4	Wearing skimpy clothing	2.66*	1.018	High
5	Spraying one's hair cut or hair do	2.53*	.999	High
6	Wearing too much body perfume	2.77*	1.106	High
7	Wearing too much of face make up	2.46	.911	Low
8	Wearing nose/eye piercings	2.41	.1.064	Low
9	Wearing artificial eye contacts/screes	2.46	.1.098	Low
10	Having tattoos/body paintings	2.41	1.067	Low
Overall mean score on level of indecent dressing = 2.57				

* Significant mean ($\bar{X} \geq 2.50$)

Result in Table 2 showed that majority of the students agreed on items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 at a mean score range of 2.53 to 2.77 and disagreed on items 7, 8, 9 and 10 at mean score range of 2.41 to 2.46. The overall mean score on item 1-10 bordering on level of

indecent dressing of 2.57 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 ($X = 2.57 > 2.50$). Hence, this implies that the level of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State was high.

Research Question 3: What are the forms of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

Research Question 3 was analyzed using mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S.D) as shown in Table 4. A benchmark of 2.50 was used a criterion mean for decision making on the items and over mean.

Table 3: Mean and Standard score on the forms of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

S/n	Items	N = 524		
		\bar{X}	SD	Remarks
1	Involvement in casual/unprotected sex I have had sex with someone who have other sex partners that I know of	2.53*	1.000	Agreed
2	I have had sex without any protective such as condoms	2.36	1.075	Disagreed
3	I have had sex with someone who I know is contracted with Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) during the time(s) of sex	2.58*	1.092	Agreed
4	I have kept more than one sexual relationship at a time	2.82*	.989	Agreed
5	I have used sex pills to sleep with the opposite sex	2.39	1.151	Disagreed
Overall mean = 2.54				
Physical sexual assault				
6	I touch the private part of the opposite sex in a sexually seductive manner	2.52*	.957	Agreed
7	I lured a stranger into having sex with you	2.73*	.942	Agreed
8	Had sex with someone by drugging him/her	2.64*	.977	Agreed
9	Forcefully had sex with someone who you do not know his HIV status	2.50*	.947	Agreed
10	Paying a person some money to have sex with you	2.53*	1.119	Agreed
Overall mean = 2.58				

* Significant mean ($\bar{X} \geq 2.50$)

Result in Table 3 showed that majority of the students agreed on items 1, 3 and 4 at a mean score range of 2.53 to 2.82 and disagreed with items 2, and 5 at mean score range of 2.36 to 2.39. The overall mean score of items 1-4 casual/unprotected sex is 2.54 while that on items 6-10 physical sexual assault is 2.58. Since the overall mean of casual/ unprotected sex and physical sexual assault are greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 ($X = 2.64$ and $2.58 > 2.50$). Hence, this implies that casual/unprotected sex and physical sexual assault are the forms of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.

Result in Table 3 showed that majority of the students agreed on items 1, 3 and 4 at a mean score range of 2.53 to 2.82 and disagreed with items 2, and 5 at mean score range of 2.36 to 2.39. The overall mean score of items 1-4 casual/unprotected sex is 2.54 while that on items 6-10 physical sexual assault is 2.58. Since the overall mean of casual/

unprotected sex and physical sexual assault are greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 ($X = 2.64$ and $2.58 > 2.50$). Hence, this implies that casual/unprotected sex and physical sexual assault are the forms of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.

Research Question 4: What is the level of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma?

Research Question 4 was analysed using mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S.D) as shown in Table 4. A benchmark of 2.50 was used a criterion mean for decision making on the items and over mean.

Table 4: Mean and Standard score on the level sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

S/n	Items	N = 524		Remarks
		\bar{X}	SD	
1	Having had sex with someone who have other sex partners that I know of	2.52*	.990	High
2	Having sex without any protective such as condoms	2.39	1.066	Low
3	Having sex with someone who I know is contracted with Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) during the time(s) of sex	2.58*	1.083	High
4	keeping more than one sexual relationship at a time	2.81*	.980	High
5	Using sex pills to sleep with the opposite sex	2.39	1.141	Low
6	Touching the private part of the opposite sex	2.51*	.947	High
7	Luring a stranger into having sex with you to satisfy your sexual urge	2.74*	.939	High
8	Having sex with someone by drugging him/her	2.63*	.966	High
9	Forcefully having sex with someone who you do not know his HIV status	2.49	.937	Low
10	Paying a person some money to have sex with you	2.52*	1.109	High
Overall mean score on level of sexual promiscuity = 2.56				

* Significant mean ($\bar{X} \geq 2.50$)

Result in Table 4 showed that majority of the students agreed on items 1, 3, 4, 6,7, 8 and 10 at a mean score range of 2.51to 2.81 and disagreed with items2, 5 and 9 at mean score range of 2.39 to 2.49. The overall mean score on item 1-10 bordering on level of sexual promiscuity 2.56 is greater than the criterion mean of 2.50 ($\bar{X} = 2.56 > 2.50$). Hence, this implies that level of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State was high.

Discussion

The result showed that wearing of body exposing attires and excessive make-overs are the forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. The result agrees with that of Obeta and Uwah (2015) that the female undergraduate students dressing patterns are greatly influenced by imitation of western dress styles, peer/social group pressure, mass media, imitation of film actresses and fashion in vogue.

The result is quite consistent with that of Gbenga (2013) that female students were fond of wearing transparent clothes, skimpy tops and heavy make ups to class in Abia State, Nigeria. The result agrees with that of Gbadegbe and Quashie (2013) that girls again wear very tight trousers called 'shinnies', thereby showing the contours of their body ostensibly to entice the opposite sex. They also wear very short and transparent tops called 'show your stomach' which exposes their abdomen and breasts.

The result showed that level of indecent dressing among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State was high. The result agrees with that of Gbadegbe and Quashie (2013) that about

60% of Ho Polytechnic students of Ghana dress indecently as many males wear saggy trousers, and many women wear clothes that reveal sensitive parts of their body. It was concluded that the level of indecent dressing was high in Ho Polytechnic students in Ghana. Result of this study is quite consistent with that of Imaledo et al. (2012) that the level of indecent dressing among students has risen and also become a thing of concern for many administrators. Result of the study agrees with that of Obeta and Uwah (2015) that many school students wear clothes that are consistent with the television and internet stars that they adore.

The result showed that level of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State was high. The result supported that of Chukwudi and Gbakorun (2011) that the prevalence forms of sexual promiscuity among female undergraduates were involvement in casual and survival sex with multiple sexual partners in tertiary institutions in Imo State. The result is line with that of Imaledo et al. (2012) that involvement in commercial sex, was at the low ebb but unprotected casual sex with multiple sexual partners, addiction to pornographic materials were high among the undergraduates in University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State.

Conclusion

The level of sexual promiscuity and indecent dressing is on the increase among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. Based on findings, it is concluded that wearing of body exposing attires and excessive make-overs are the forms of indecent dressing among undergraduates

while casual/unprotected sex and physical sexual assault are the forms of sexual promiscuity among undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings, are the following recommendations:

1. Parents should try as much as possible to set good examples on sexuality for their children to follow. This they could do by encouraging the development of a set of religious values in the

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adolescents' students that would guide their sexual behaviour.

2. Health practitioners should intensify efforts to give adequate sexuality information to the youths especially among the undergraduate in universities through awareness by organizing seminars on the health consequences of indulging in sexual promiscuity.
3. University management should institute policies on faculty dress code in other to ensure students are discipline in their way of dressing.

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