

# SOCIAL VICES AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS IN NIGERIA HIGHER INSTITUTION: EVIDENCE FROM COLLEGE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY OFFA

BY

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## Abstract

*The falling standard of education has been the pressing issue in the minds of people in Nigeria and most African nations. The employers of labour are most concerned with the decline in education standard, as quality education is expected to increase knowledge, skills and values. This study examines the effect of social vices on the academic performance of students in Nigerian higher institutions. To achieve this objective, the specific objectives are to: (i) assess the effect of sexual promiscuity on academic performance of students in Nigeria higher institutions. (ii) examine the effect of drug abuse on academic performance of students of Nigeria higher institution. The population for the study made up of students and staff of kwara state college of health technology Offa. Data was sourced through questionnaire. Descriptive statistical method was used to analyse the data, while inferential statistics was used to test the hypotheses. The study found that sexual promiscuity has significant negative influence on academic performance in Nigeria higher institutions by t-value of -4.218 with p-value of 0.004. It also shows that drug abuse has significant negative effect on academic performance as shown by t-value of -4.535 with p-value of 0.001 at 5% level of significance. The study recommends that various institutions should put in place dress code for their students and ensure stringent enforcement. Also, institutions should organize seminars and workshop for students to sensitize them on the negative effect of taking hard drugs on their academic performance, health and life generally.*

**Keywords:** *Academic performance, Social vices, Sexual promiscuity*

## Introduction

Poor academic performance and failure among students of secondary and tertiary institutions in Nigeria are the resultant effect of evil or immoral behaviours (The nation online). According to Okwu (2006), major employers of Nigerian graduates have agreed on quality decline in higher education in the country. There are several social vices that seem to be militating against realization of the desired qualitative education in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Some of these vices include cultism, examination malpractices, hooliganisms, thug, drug abuse, absence dressing and sexual promiscuity. For instance, sixty-two (62) students and twelve (12) students of Auchu Polytechnic in Edo state were rusticated and expelled respectively for one social vices or the other in 2017/2018 academic session (<https://dailypost.ng>). There have been reported cases of students sneaking out from their hostels to attend parties and other social gatherings during lecture hours and late at night an example is in the case of College of health technology Offa 2018 (student disciplinary register). These students were caught and rusticated. Also, professor Richard Akindele, a lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile ife who corruptly asked for sexual benefits from his student (Ms Osagie Monica) on account of favour to be afterwards shown to her in the discharge of his official duties as a lecturer, to alter her academic grades from fail to pass, was disengaged from the service of the institution and was sentenced to twenty four months imprisonment (<https://punchng.com>). The effect of these vices on the youth who are the undergraduates in Nigerian higher institutions needs to be examined as it is militating against the realization of the desired qualitative education.

**Statement of the Problem**

The alarming rate of reported cases of poor academic performance of students in various levels of institutions in Nigeria has raised serious questions on the quality of graduates occupying various high positions in different ministries. This has been attributed to various social vices and immoral acts students engage in during their school days as well as the increasing penchant of lecturers and teachers in taking advantage of desperate students to enrich themselves in exchange for passing their exams when they do not merit it. For instance forty students from Kwara State College of Health Technology Offa were rusticated and suspended for engaging in different immoral acts (student affairs record). The reliance of students on seducing lecturers for marks as well as lecturers threatening students (female) for failure to comply with their sexual demand could negatively affect the academic performance of the students; this is because once the lecturer fall into the trap of the seductive act of the student, the independence of the lecturer will be jeopardized.

More so, taking of various alcohol and hard drugs could affect the academic performance of students. It has been argued that addicted to hard drugs (such as cocaine, codeine, tramadol etc.) by students could seriously affect the Psychology and thinking of students thereby reducing their commitment to academic activities. Hence, it will affect their academic performance.

**Research Objectives**

The broad objective of this study is to examine the effect of social vices on academic performance of students in Nigerian Higher institutions. The specific objectives are to:

1. Assess the effect of sexual promiscuity on academic performance of students in Nigeria higher institutions
2. Examine the effect of drug abuse on academic performance of students of Nigeria higher institutions.

**Research Questions**

1. To what extent does student sexual promiscuity affects their academic performance in Nigeria Higher institutions?
2. What is the effect of drug abuse on academic performance of students in Nigeria higher institutions?

**Research Hypotheses:**

The following hypotheses were raised and answered:

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Sexual promiscuity has no significant effect on academic performance of students in Nigeria higher institutions

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant effect of drug abuse on academic performance of students in Nigeria Higher institutions.

**Literature review**

Poor academic performances and failure among students of higher institutions in Nigeria are resultant effects of evil or immoral behaviours and activities such as drug abuse, cultism, cohabitation, prostitution, thuggery, hooliganism, among others. Kayode (2015) examines the contemporary social vices on the university campus with a view to determine whether they are pains or gains for the perpetrators. Two hypotheses were generated to test the difference between the pains and gains of examination malpractices, and to find out the significant difference between the pains and gains of cultism. Questionnaire was administered for three hundred and fifty students of the industrial design department, FUTA. Data collected were analysed using percentage frequency count and chi-square statistics testing at significant level of 0.05. The two hypotheses were rejected. The result found out that examination malpractices and cultism are the most frequent moral ineptitudes that cut across all the institutional campuses in Nigeria. Omonyne, Nnedum, Fadugba, Uche and Biereenu (2003) assessed how the engagement of ICT devices results in social vices on campus. The study uses ex-posit descriptive design, cross sectional design was used to compliment the formal. Primary and secondary data were used. The population of the study was

made up of both students and staff. Data collected was analysed using frequency table and percentage. The result shows that many students were rusticated and suspended as a result of ICT related vices.

Udoh and Irezu (2015) investigate the causes, effect and strategies to stop cultism in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Data was sourced using structured questionnaire which was administered to one hundred respondents. Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistical method. The researcher computed the mean and standard deviation of the responses on each question item. The result of the study revealed that cultism affects the institution tremendously, both in the standard of education and in the area of discipline.

Eunice, Benedict and Macelina (2016) studied the effect of cultism on the academic achievement of colleges of education students in the south-south region of Nigeria. A survey design was adopted for the study and a simple percentage was used to find out how ignorance, parental background and upbringing affect students' membership of secret cult vis-à-vis student achievement academically. The result of the study shows that cultism disrupt the school calendar which resulted to poor academic performance.

Oye and Ibrahim (2016) examined the vices of social media on the academic success of students of Adamawa State Polytechnic. Data was sourced by questionnaire which was administered to one hundred and thirty respondents. The data was analysed using simple percentage. The result found that students of the Adamawa Polytechnic are very conscious of the networking sites. The analysis also revealed that a greater number of sites affect students negatively as they gave much attention to things like games and chats platform rather than education sites.

Anzene (2014) assessed the trends and effect of examination malpractices at various levels of Nigerian system. The paper discussed the trends in examination malpractices and various methods. The result of the study depicts that examination malpractices resulted to fraud and criminal values in our society which cannot allow us to realize our future greatness as it renders our certificates useless and degrade the foundation for assessing our skill and capacity. Amadi and Akpelu (2018) studied drug abuse and academic performance of secondary school students in Emohua Local Government Area of River state. A sample of three hundred respondents was drawn from five secondary schools in the local government area. Data collected was analysed using chi-square, two hypotheses were raised and tested to guide the study. The finding revealed that student who abused drugs recorded poor academic performance.

Kavutha (2015) investigate the influence of drugs on academic performance among secondary school students in Matinyani District, Kenya. Descriptive research design survey was adopted. Data was collected by questionnaire which was analysed using descriptive statistics package for social sciences (SPSS). The study established that drugs use is common among secondary school students in Matinya district which resulted to poor academic performance of the students. Onyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay and Obikwelu (2014) assessed the impact of prostitution tendencies on academic performance of university undergraduates in south east Nigeria. Descriptive design survey was employed in the study. The population of the study was 30,816 comprising of both male and female undergraduate from four federal and state universities in south east Nigeria. Stratified random sampling was used to select 1983 respondents. Structured questionnaire were administer and descriptive statistics were used to answer the research question. The result shows that it is very common in many Nigerian cities to see a great number of young girls roaming the street and hostels seeking for clients when they are supposed to be in school, of home and by this they don't have enough time on their studies which affect their academic performance.

### Methodology

This study employs descriptive survey research design because the opinions of different categories of respondents (students and lecturers) were sought to answer the research question raised. Students and staff of Kwara State College of Health Technology, Offa, Kwara State constitute the population of study.

The total population of students is seven thousand (5,000) across all fourteen (14) departments while the total staff strength of the college is one hundred and fifty (150) academic and non-academic staff. The sample size of the study is four hundred and seventy-nine (479) respondents. Three hundred and seventy (370) students were chosen as respondents while one hundred and nine (109) staffs were chosen as respondents. The sample size was determined through Yamane (1967) statistical method of determining sample size. Twenty-two (22) students and seven (7) staff were selected from twelve departments while twenty-four (24) students and seven (7) staff were selected from the two departments that have the largest number of students. Simple random sampling technique was applied in chosen the final sample of the study.

Data were collected through primary and secondary means of data collection. Secondary data were collected through extraction of information from literature, magazines and registers of the college. Primary data were sourced through the questionnaire administered to respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two sections (section A and B). Section A dealt with bio-data of the respondents while section was based on the research questions raised on the hypotheses stated in chapter one. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics was employed to show the snapshot of the large data set collected. The descriptive statistics employed frequency tables and percentages. The inferential statistics used in testing the hypotheses stated in chapter one was Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression analysis. Prior to testing of the hypotheses, preliminary analyses were carried out in order to test the reliability of the data collected. Reliability test was conducted using Cronbach Alpha. Data is said to be reliable when the result of the Cronbach Alpha is greater than 0.7.

## Results

A comprehensive questionnaire was prepared and administered to four hundred and seventy-nine (479) comprising three hundred and seventy-nine (370) students and one hundred and nine (109) staff of Kwara State College of Health Technology, Offa, Kwara State. Out of the questionnaire distributed, four hundred and forty-seven (447) questionnaires were duly filled and returned. The researcher discovered that thirty-seven (37) questionnaires were wrongly filled, thereby, were removed by the researcher. Hence, the remaining four hundred and ten (410) questionnaires constitute the basis of the result of the study.

**Table 1: Shows that the distribution and return of the questionnaire administered to undergraduates.**

Respondents	Distribution	Returned	Unreturned
Lecturer	109	105	4
Students	379	342	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>41</b>

Source: Author's Computation, 2019.

## Analysis of the Bio-data of the Respondents

**Table 2**

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender of the respondents</b>		
Male	15	3.7
Female	395	96.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status of the respondents</b>		
Married	89	21.7
Single	321	88.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age Distribution of the respondents</b>		

15-25	258	62.90
26-35	90	21.95
36-55	52	12.68
56 and above	10	2.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Departments</b>		
Comm. Health	31	7.58
Medical laboratory	31	7.58
Dental Technology	29	7.07
Pharmacy	29	7.07
Orthopedics	29	7.07
Biomedical	29	7.07
Environmental	29	7.07
x-ray	29	7.07
Public Health	29	7.07
Health Education	29	7.07
Health Information	29	7.07
Optamic	29	7.07
Nutrition	29	7.07
Dental Technician	29	7.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Author's Computation, (2019).**

The above table shows the composition of the respondents. 15(3.7%) respondents are male while 395(96.3%) are females. 89 (21.7%) are married while 321 (88.3%) of the respondents are single. 258 (62.9%) of the respondents falls within the age of 15-25 years, 90 (21.95%) falls within the age range of 26-35 years, 52 (12.68%) falls within the range of 36-55, while 10 (2.47%) respondents fall within the age of 56 and above. The respondents were drawn across the 14 departments in the college. 29 (7.07%) respondents were drawn from each of the 12 departments while 31(7.58%) respondents each were drawn from the other 2 departments.

### **Reliability Test**

**Table 3: Reliability Statistic**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>SPRO</b>	<b>DA</b>
Cronbach-Alpha	0.826	0.864

**Sources: Author's Computation (2019)**

Prior to the testing of hypothesis, the instrument was subjected to reliability test through the use of Cronbach-Alpha. Table 3 shows the value for the variables used. The assumption of Cronbach alpha is that any value greater than 0.7 is acceptable and makes the data to be reliable. The result in table 3 indicates that the variables exhibited values greater than 0.7 (0.826 and 0.864) which implies that the data are reliable and consistent with acceptable research standards.

**Table 4: Model Summary**

<b>Model</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R Square</b>	<b>Adjusted Square</b>	<b>R Std. Error of the Estimate</b>	<b>F-statistics</b>	<b>Sig. change</b>
1	0.727 <sup>a</sup>	0.682	0.556	0.08470	2.473	0.000

**Source: Author's Computation, (2019).**

a. Predictors: (Constant), SPRO, DA

The result in table 4 shows that the independent variables employed in the study explained around 68.2% of the variations in the dependent variable of the sample firms, as shown by the coefficient of

determination ( $R^2$ ) value of 0.682. The table also revealed that the model is fitted as indicated by F-statistic of 2.473 which is significant at 1% level of significance as indicated by the P-value of 0.0000. The testing of hypotheses was conducted following the fitness of the model.

**Table 5: Regression Table**

Variables	Coefficients	Std. Error	T-value	Sig.
Constant	-2.592	.627	-4.134	.000
PRO	-.426	.101	-4.218	.004
DA	-.390	.086	-4.535	.001

**Source: Author's Computation, (2019).**

### Restatement and Test of Hypotheses

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Sexual promiscuity has no significant influence on academic performance of students in higher institutions in Nigeria.

The result in table 5 shows that sexual promiscuity has significant negative influence on academic performance of students in higher institutions in Nigeria as shown by t-value of -4.218 with p-value of 0.004. This leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis which states that Sexual promiscuity has no significant influence on academic performance of students in higher institutions in Nigeria, thereby leading to the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis.

### Restatement and Test of Hypothesis Two

**H<sub>02</sub>:** Drug abuse has no significant effect on academic performance of students in Nigerian higher institutions.

Based on the result in table 5, the result revealed that drug abuse has significant negative effect on academic performance as shown by t-value of -4.535 with p-value of 0.001 at 5% level of significance. The result leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis, leading to the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis. The alternative hypothesis states that drug abuse has significant negative effect on academic performance of students in higher institutions in Nigeria.

### Discussion

The result implies that when students engage in promiscuous acts such as seducing lecturers and wearing of indecent clothes in order to attract people, it will lead to 4.22% reduction in academic performance of students. This signifies that female students will not be committed to their studies as a result of the reliance on the lecturer due to sexual intercourse that had already transpired between them. This also compromises the independence of the lecturer as he will not want to fail the students that he had intimate relationship with. Sexual promiscuity and indecent dressing of students could also lead to lack of dignity, self-respect, lack of concentration in school, assault of moral sensitivity and prostitution pervading the academics scenery and Illicit abortion resulting from teenage pregnancy. This confirms the various incidences that occurred recently between lecturers and students in various higher institution of learning in Nigeria. The result of this study corroborates with the findings of Oyeoku, Ngwoke, Eskay and Obikwelu (2014); Olawunni, Adeniran and Isaac (2016) where they found that one of the ways that reduce the academic performance of students is through indecent dressing and engagement in sexual activities.

This signifies that when students engage in taking hard drugs for fun, it will induce 4.535% reduction in their academic performance. This implies that taking of hard drug by students affect their mental capacity, decline in decision making, destabilize their body function and emotion as well as lack of full commitment to their academic performance. The result confirmed the arguments of Amadi and Akpelu (2018) where they observed that hard drug adversely affect the mentality of students thereby decrease the



seriousness of students to their primary assignment on various campuses of higher institution of learning, even at the secondary school level.

### Conclusion

Based on the empirical results above, it can be concluded that sexual promiscuity of students and taking of drugs constrain academic performance of students in the higher institutions of learning in Nigeria. This could have led to the present moral decadence on campuses as well as reduction in the quality of graduates in Nigeria.

### Recommendations

The study, therefore, recommends that:

- i. Various institutions should put in place dress code for their students and ensure stringent enforcement. Student that goes against the rules and regulations should be sanction. More so, lecturers that force students to have sexual intercourse with him/her for high score/mark should be sanction and face the wrath of the law;
- ii. Institutions should organize seminars and workshop for students to sensitize them on the detrimental effect of taking hard drugs on their academic performance, health and life generally.

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