

Secret Cult Activities in Institutions of Higher Learning: Lessons from the Nigerian Situations

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ABSTRACT The economic and racial backgrounds of cult members have changed: most situations involved middle-class to wealthy young people. Cult recruiters often targeted to obtain their affluent parents' money. However, we now witness a gradual transition to the recruitment of the less affluent and less educated. Recruitment of members of minority groups has increased. Members now come from every ethnic and religious background and include adults, middle-aged, elderly, and children. Entire families join or develop within a group, and children are born into and raised within them. The problems of cultism in Nigerian tertiary institutions are legion. It is difficult to focus attention on all the facets of the plague. Thus, the focus of this article is five-fold; namely to: Highlight the emergence of cults in Nigerian tertiary institutions; Discuss how members are recruited into the cults; Describe the initiation ceremonies; Assess the problems created by the cults; and Examine their counselling implications, ways and means of preventing students from joining the cults.