



Factors Necessitating Sorting In Higher Education In Nigeria: Implication For Counselling

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ABSTRACT

This paper is designed to investigate the factors necessitating sorting in higher education in Nigeria. The main focus of the study is to examine the causes of sorting in higher education Nigeria, such as admitting porous students into the institutions, poor remuneration to lecturers and poverty. The study also identifies some of the effects of sorting in higher institution, such as multiple carry overs of courses and drop out. The paper highlighted that sorting is one of the scourge and practices threatening effective learning in higher institutions in Nigeria. The study also advised the University Community to wake-up from slumber and ensure that the values of learning are protected in higher education. The study also recommended that lecturers and students should be checkmated in higher education. The paper recommended that Government should rise up to defend the University integrity and values. The study also advised university authorities to create awareness on the consequences or danger of sorting in the higher institution in Nigeria to avoid further occurrences or breakdown of law in higher education.

Keywords: Factors, Necessitating, Sorting, Students.

INTRODUCTION

The factors necessitating sorting in higher education has become a very aspect of higher education problem in Nigeria. There has never being higher institution in Nigeria that is devoid of sorting. Higher institution in Nigeria has witnessed violence of soring in varying means or degrees. The advanced Learned English Dictionary (2000) defines sorting as “illegal means of collecting money from students in higher institutions”. In the same vein, Chile (2022) states that sorting in higher institutions is an illegal act of behavior designed to obtain money from students illegally or unlawfully.

Ndu (2021) opined that sorting is one of the social vices that has eaten deep into the fabric of the university system. Sorting can also been seen as students influential means of cowing lecturers. The implication of these definitions is that sorting involves influencing, intimidation and a calculated attempt by the students to lure lecturers accepting what is not ideal or accepted in the university. It is in view of

this, that Okon (2023) opined that sorting in higher institution has become a practicing culture in all higher institutions in Nigeria. Sorting is a culture that are in the corridor of students in higher institutions. Diche (2021) opined that when sorting is a culture, it is left in the hand of students, while good lecturers are scared of it (Ibuchi, 2024). Sorting in the higher institutions are notable virus that has corrupted many lecturers in the institutions. Otakpo (2022) defines sorting as a means or state of changing one's decision to accept another because of money. The term sorting has change the trajectory in the higher institutions. Sorting is known as negative tendencies that have gone virile in the university community.

Practice of sorting in Nigeria institutions, since the creation of universities in Nigeria, sorting has characterized the entire system and gained prominence in the university discussion chart.

Amadi (2010) opined that university management cannot discuss issues affecting the university without bringing in sorting among lecturers, students and non – academics. Sorting among lecturers and students is a heinous crime that university forbids. The reason for forbidding sorting in the university is because of its adverse effects on the lecturers and students. Sorting can make a lecturers not to teach what he or she supposed to teach. Sorting can also make a student not to study and end up leaving university without evidence of knowledge from the university (Ken, 2023). National University Commission condemns sorting and vow to deal with any lecturers who involved in sorting. The reasons for the action or decision is because it demean university image or status.

Nkechi (2024) opined that sorting should be stopped to avoid producing half-baked graduates. He also stressed that sorting can destroy the lecturers and students readiness or zeal, to be the best in future towards academics.

Amanda, .K.(2023) opined that issue of sorting should be university collective, fight to ensure transparency and conducive learning environment among lectures and students.

Students' participation in sorting lecturers is also fueled by inability of the students to learn and inability of the lecturers to teach. Some of the unpatriotic lecturers take advantage of this and make some students to be dull and unserious in taking their studies serious.

Ken .A.(2022) opined that sorting groomed half-baked and unproductive personalities in the society and thereby call for proper overhauling of the system to avoid regret. Sorting among students/lecturers are alarming and should be nipped out of board.

Agala .S.K (2023) stated that sorting has marred the university integrity and values because of the ill-dreaded disease of it. Sorting is a virus that has destroyed many students in higher institutions. In fact, it is a culture in tertiary institutions. Students can no longer face their academic work because of sorting which has become a canker worm that has eaten deep into the fabric of students' life. Sorting has made students to be lazy and unfunctional to deliver on their academic learning mandate. Sorting in the university are alarming and considered to be killer of student's readiness and knowledge. Sorting is an epidemiology that has a changed student mindset about reading and learning in higher institutions.

Otakpo .C. (2019) opined that sorting is rampant in tertiary institutions because a lot of students of this generation are now too lazy in anything that is a form of knowledge and they tend to see anything educative as a time killer not knowing that the real time and brain killer is sorting.

Jaja, (2011) opined that moral decadence has become the order of the day in higher institutions in Nigeria. Among this decadence is “sorting” whose mother is corruption. It has become worrisome concept in the Nigeria educational system. Sorting is one of the corrupt practices that seem to be threatening the standard of education in Nigeria higher education. Aside sorting, corrupt practices and some immoral acts in the Nigerian higher educational system include: admission racketeering, examination misconduct, falsification of academic records such as transcript, sexual harassment and victimization of applicants, victimization of students by officials. Etc. The standard of education in Nigeria has fallen in recent years, is a conventional claim that cannot be disputed. This research work explained the concept and factors necessitating sorting: causes and effects and also alarmed that if educational managers did not act fast to correct the measures, the standards of Nigeria higher education will continue to degenerate. The hermeneutic approach is used in this paper.

Ndidi (2010) stated that students of this generation are now too lazy in anything that is a form of knowledge and they tend to see anything educative as a time killer, is that everyday television which these generations tend to “enslaved” to.

This now causes lack of preparation of exam because there was no knowledge stored up for any form of test/examinations, and due to the taught that the brain cannot yield anything, the students in question now starts thinking of sorting their way out due to poor salary structure, salary owing or let me say greediness, lecturers uses it as a source of income, thereby making it mandatory and compulsory.

Stanley (2014) opined that too much of these happening in higher institution was a result of porous admission process for most state higher institutions; so, they end up admitting half-baked students. Also, the schools themselves run on the exorbitant fees gotten from the students. The number of students in a particular class can run up to hundreds, how will lecturers monitor them?

Udo (2016) opined that sorting is a process by which students pay in cash or kind to be awarded unmerited marks by lecturers after examinations or test.

Jando (2017) sees sorting as a situation where students liase with their lecturers and other officials to inflate grades in exchange for money or other form of gratification. Sorting also known as ‘run’, or blocking’ has become a campus culture in the universities such that a student will never graduate if he or she fails to sort or pay the project supervisor or invigilator. This has gone so terrible that there is hardly a graduate from Nigerian university who never sorted in one way or the other. Numerous strategies are adopted by lecturers to aim-twist students: irregular attendance of lecture, teaching very large class without public address system, announcing through the course representative (course rep) that anyone who pays certain amount will get extra mark and by setting questions out of course contents. These are some of the ways, this act is being perpetrated. This trend has compelled students to keep a good proportion of their up-keeping allowance from their parents for that purpose.

Otakpo (2017) opined that course reps or coordinators remains agent to lecturers and at times, they persuade their course mates to sort for their courses in other to get good marks or grades. It has been noted that lecturers use this avenue to extort money and exploit students. In some instances, after sorting the students may still fail. It is obvious that students that indulge in sorting do not meant well for higher institutions.

Nnadi (2016) stated that lecturers do disappoint students after sorting them and at the end, they still fail them. This development in higher institution is ridiculous and also uncalled for. It has also been noticed that students after sorting, receive low or unexpected grade. This horrible development has subjected our universities into comatose and labeled our student unserious products or fellow in the society. Sorting has made our students to be ranked low among other students from foreign universities. Sequel to this academic disappointment in the university student have muted other ways of pleasing their lecturers such being their errand boy or girls, creating good relationship by, clearing their offices, sending ATM credit to lecturers and buying expensive gift for them during their events or birthday. Students also introduce their parents to their lecturers to pass their course by all means. Ben,(2014).

CAUSES OF SORTING IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

They are as follows:

1. Admitting porous students into the institutions
2. Poor remuneration of lecturers.
3. Poor secondary school foundation
4. Poverty

Admitting porous students can as well bring in sorting in tertiary institutions. Some students are not willing to study but, to have certificate. They are not ready to face academic work and in such situation, sorting will be the talk of such students with lecturers.

Poor salary to lecturers: poor payment of lecturers can also breed sorting among student/lecturers. When the lecturers take home cannot solve his/her problem, the lecturer may decide to embark or extort students in order to meet up certain demands or challenges.

Poor secondary school foundation: When a student is not properly equipped at the secondary school level, him or her would find it difficult to meet up and thereby resorting to sorting to acquire certificate. Poverty: it is another deadly virus that has dismantled a lot of students whose interest are to compete with others. Poverty has made some student to be weak and cannot face their studies effectively in higher institution.

EFFECTS OF SORTING IN HIGHER INSTITUTION

Danago (2016) stated that sorting has crippled our tertiary institutions negatively in Nigeria. He identifies some of the adverse effect such as:

1. Questionable certificate credibility
2. Multiple carryovers of courses and dropout.
3. Questionable products of students in the society
4. Negligence in hard work
5. Public disgrace in speaking English
6. Unwilling to compete favorably with others in the society.

Preventive Measures on Sorting

1. University should stop admitting porous students into higher education
2. Students should be thoroughly assessed by the university before admitting them into the university.
3. University should checkmate the activities of the lecturers in the university.
4. University should mark out punishment measures to any airing students and lecturers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should rise up to defend the university integrity and value.
2. University should not admit students that lacks good secondary foundations.
3. Government should also place check on the activities of the lecturers in the University.

CONCLUSION

The paper has x-rayed sorting as a barrier capable of destroying university image and standard. The study also discussed the causes and its effect. The study finally recommends certain steps to mitigate sorting in higher institution such as government intervention in defending university value and integrity etc.

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