

JOHN-NELSON EMMANUEL

GEOLOGY 19/SCI14/008

CULTISM IN OUR SOCIETY, CAUSES AND EFFECTS

Cultism can be defined as a ritual practice by a group of people whose membership, admission, policy and initiation formalities as well as their mode of operations are done in secret and kept secret with their activities having negative effects on both members and non-members alike, and a group of people practicing cultism is called a cult.

A cult, In the sociological classifications of religious movements, is a social group with socially deviant or novel beliefs and practices, although this is often unclear. Other researchers present a less-organized picture of cults, saying that they arise spontaneously around novel beliefs and practices.

So what are the causes of cultism in our society?, in Nigeria, The major causes of cultism in tertiary institutions were influence of peer group; parental background; societal decadence; erosion of education standards; militarization of the Nigerian polity; lack of recreational facilities; quest for power and protection among others.

Most universities in Nigeria, have at least two cult groups and most of these universities are the federal universities as they are by far larger and harder to keep track of most of the students and their movements, some private universities do have cult groups but its not as rampant as it is in federal universities. Minor students are presured into joining cults by their older acquaintances or their friends in their level whom has connections with those in such groups.

What are the effects of cultism on the society?

Cultism affects the cultists, their families and the society at large because of their actions which range from being rough to being very destructive, for instance, a cult group and a rival cult group decides they want power and want to be the top persons in the school which they are based in, and a fight thereby breaks out, this could and will most likely lead to vandalism of school properties, and even greater, the death of the cult members, leaving their respective families in grief, the society living in fear of another occurrence of such, or if the cultists are caught by the law, could end up spending most of their youthful years behind bars.

How to curb cultism as a whole.

To curb cultism or to extinguish cultism as a whole from the society is somewhat impossible, but the most that can be done, starts from the home, children should be taught at home and in school, the dangers of joining a cult group and how it can affect both the individual and their society.