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## **INDECENT DRESSING; CAUSES, EFFECTS AND SOLUTIONS.**

Dressing originated from the time Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves and made themselves cloth to cover their nakedness after eating the forbidden fruits. This shows that human beings are social animals blessed with degree of intelligence. Our mental ability enables us to cover nakedness. Therefore, dressing is an act of putting on clothes, while indecent means not keeping with conventional moral values; improper, immodest or unseemly. Indecent dressing or immodest dressing was once uncommon in Africa, but today, it is progressively becoming part of us and at the same time, leading to the increase in the rate immorality in our society. This act, also known as dress to kill is very common among colleges of education, polytechnics and university students, especially among females.

**Indecent dressing** is a social malady in the society today especially by the youths. It simply means deliberate exposure of one's body to the public. This practice does not conform to the norms and values of the society, particularly the African society.

It is unbelievable that indecent dressing is caused by common phrases which are the problems of our generation like; "I live my life to please no one", "I don't care", "no one can control me" etc. These phrases have become so common in our society that one cannot condemn any wrongdoings again because the rewards are usually curses, hatred and condemnation. It would have been good if those phrases are not wrongly used because many young lives have been destroyed and many are on the tip of destruction. Nowadays, the choosing of a wrong mentor or role model tends to cause indecency in dressing more than any other causes. Why? Because the mentor also dresses indecently. Recently, the word "marlian" which is said to mean the fans of a popular Nigerian hip pop singer "Naira Marley" has contributed greatly to indecency in dressing especially among the boys. How? It has negatively contributed to their lives because they all want to be a marlian, therefore dresses like their role model. Indecent dressing as an act is of a hydra headed origin. It is not just a behavior that developed overnight, but an accumulated behavioral pattern that could be attributed to the home due to neglect and poor parenting. Also, the effects of globalization arising from wrong values of exportation and importation, reflection of high rate of moral decadence in the large society, peer pressure and the desire to belong as well as fading values and demonic influence all contribute to the act of indecent dressing.

Indecent dressing is the major cause of the various assault and sexual harassments recorded in the society, overtime. In the name of fashion, ladies

dress half naked to functions for instance; Nigerian ladies derive pleasure in wearing miniskirts, bumper shorts, armless tops etc.

Another effect of indecent dressing is the subjection of innocent boys to arrest along with hooligans. Boys nowadays fix hairs, pierce ears making them look like hardened criminals, so one cannot really blame security agencies for arresting them.

Also, the saying; "where there is no law, there is no sin", is seen to be actually correct, in that most higher institutions especially public ones are the major cause of indecent dressing. Why? This is because there is no law enforced against indecent dressing in the school. However, due to this, students are subsequently lured into many negative acts which include prostitution, cultism etc.

Moreover, persistent exposure of the skin to environmental hazards can lead to frostbite or sunburn.

There are various ways in which indecent dressing can be reduced in our society at least to a minimum level. Parents should dress decently and act as role models to their children, religious institutions should always promote the culture of decent dressing, dress codes should be introduced in higher institutions and given to all students, the mass media should do more to promote decency in dressing among youths and there should be formation of campus brigades to check the dressing patterns of students. Reasonably, parents are not to a part of this problem nowadays. Parent should encourage their offspring by buying them decent clothes and recommend them to attend decent parties if necessary.

Indecent dressing debases womanhood because it tends to expose parts of the woman's body that forms her treasure. Our pride as women lies in hidden and protected treasure; but when a girl exposes it to the public, it reduces her worth in the sight of everyone in the society. Therefore, as a lady, we must learn to cover ourselves and stop all forms of indecency in dressing. This however implies to men also who walk around looking like mad people all in the name of fashion. However, parental role in children is the key to open their world because negative parental role opens the child to all the negativities in the world and vice versa.