## COMMON SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE

Examination Malpractice simply means the use of illegal methods by students to pass examinations and acquire certificates. Examination malpractice includes acts such as bringing of textbooks or written materials into examination hall for the purpose of answering questions. Others include writing of points on palms, spying other people work during an examination, dictation of answer by invigilators or fellow candidate etc.

- **Causes of Exam Malpractice**
1. **Laziness**
2. **Love of Pleasure**
3. **Love of Money**
4. **Activities of Corrupt School owners**
5. **Laziness and Incompetence of Teachers**
6. **Inadequate Facilities in Schools**
7. **Parental Influence**

- **Effects of Examination Malpractice**
1. **Fallen  standard of education**
2. **Raisin incompetent professionals**
3. **Loss of confidence in public examinations**
4. **Discourages diligence and hard work**
5. **Increase in corruption**

- **Solutions to Examination Malpractice**
1. Provision of more facilities in the school.
2. Stiff punishment for the offenders.
3. Schools that perpetrate examination malpractice should be sanctioned and blacklisted.
4. Examination bodies conducting external examinations should hire responsible and honest people as supervisors.
5. Diligent and hardworking students should be rewarded.

**CULTISM**

Cultism can be defined as ritual practices by a group of people whose membership, admission, practice and initiation and mode of operation are done in the secret. Cultism is a major social issue and problem especially in this part of Africa.

- **Causes Of Cultism**

1. Poor home background.
2. Peer group influence.
3. Exposure to foreign value.
4. The proliferation of arms.
5. Drug/substance abuse.
6. Poor leadership.
7. Failure of the justice system to protect the vulnerable ones

➢ **Consequences of Cultism**
1. Breakdown of law and order
2. Breakdown of social value.
3. Criminal tendencies.
4. Moral decadence.

➢ **Solutions To Cultism**
1. Abiding by the rules and the regulation.
2. Having faith in God.
3. Knowledge is an antidote to any form of confrontation.
4. Punishment for arrested cultists.
5. Parents should select films for their children.
6. Academic institutions should employ the services of experts in guidance and counseling.
7. Wealthy individuals and the government should stop using money, power, and their position to recruit thugs and militants.
8. Corrupt practices should be stopped through due process.

## HIV/AIDS
HIV stands for Human Immune-Deficiency Virus. The virus causes AIDS. This virus attacks the immune system that gives the body the ability to fight infections or disease.
AIDS stands for Acquire Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is the final stage of HIV infection.

➢ **Symptoms**
The best way to know if you are infected is to be tested for HIV. The reason is that people infected with HIV may not have symptoms for years.

➢ **Ways of contracting HIV/AIDS**
The following are some of the known cause of HIV/AIDS:
1. Sexual intercourse with an infected person.
2. Sharing of sharp objects such as razor blade, needle, barbing clipper etc with an infected person.
3. An infected pregnant woman can infect her baby before, during and after delivery.
4. Transfusion of infected blood.
5.

## Effects of HIV/AIDS on the society
1. Increase in medical bills.
2. Increase in dependency ratio.
3. Reduction in man-power need.
4. Increase in children dropout in school.

## Effect on individual
1. Eventual loss of life.
2. Loss of livelihood due to inability to work.
3. It leads to psychological problems.
4. It may lead to divorce.

**Prevention of HIV/AIDS**
1. Use of condom.
2. Abstinence from sex.
3. Blood should be tested before transfusion.
4. Needles should never be shared.
5. Sharing of a toothbrush, barbing clipper etc. should be avoided.

**PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA.**
Social issues affect individual, family and the nation at large.
- **Individuals:**
1. **Loss of life:** Those who engaged in cultism, prostitution and some other social vice often lose their life immediately or eventually.
2. **Loss of reputation and dignity:** individuals who engage in kidnapping, prostitution and sexual immorality are never respected in the society. They are seen as irresponsible and unfit to occupy any dignity post.
3. **Unemployment:** Those who engage in armed robbery or other criminal activities can never be employed by anybody.
4. **Frustration and regret:** criminal and those that are infected with AIDS/HIV through sexual immorality often live in frustration and regret.

- **Family:**
1. **It may lead to a broken home:** those who engaged in criminal activities like kidnapping, armed robbery, drugs trafficking hardly have a settled home. Their spouses are likely to divorce them and this has a ripple effect on their children.
2. **Poverty and low standard of living:** where the family breadwinner become HIV/AIDS positive or sent to jail for pipeline vandalization, the other members of the family may have to live in abject poverty. Meeting their basic needs of life will become difficult.
3. **Brings shame and dents family image:** a child caught in cultism or armed robbery will bring shame to his parents. Such a child will story destroy the family name, image and reputation.

- **The nation:**
1. Dents the nation's image: Those who engage in computer fraud, drugs trafficking and other heinous crimes are indirectly destroying the image of the nation internationally. Other nations will see any Nigerian as a criminal that should be avoided like plague.
2. Brings loss of lives and property: many lives have been lost through ritual killings, HIV/AIDS, and pipeline vandalization. Many cultists have killed some innocent souls on our campuses pipeline have been vandalized by aggrieved youths in the south-south which has greatly affected the nation's revenue.
3. Feeling of insecurity
4. Loss of manpower
5. Waste of government expenditure

**ASSIGNMENT**
- Highlight five possible solutions to cultism in Nigeria
- State two (2) ways of contracting HIV in Nigeria.