

SEXUALITY AND WELL-BEING AMONG STUDENTS IN HIGHER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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Hey, what's that you're wearing!

Do you know that the University of Lagos has an official dress code? Well, let's tell you about it.

As a place where serious learning takes place, the University of Lagos no longer tolerate indecent dressing, which includes the following:

- i. All tight-fitting clothes including skirts, trousers and blouses.
- ii. All clothes showing sensitive parts of the body such as the bust, belly, upper arms and buttocks. Examples of such dresses are tran clothing, 'spaghetti tops', 'wicked traps', 'mono straps', 'tubes' and me-your-belly. Skirts and dresses with slits above the knees are al this category.
- iii. Outfits such as knickers and miniskirts and dresses not up to knee le
- iv. Partywear, beach wear and bathroom slippers (NOT TO BE WORN T CLASS).
- v. T-shirts, shirts and jeans carrying obscene and subliminal messages.
- vi. Trousers such as hip-riders and low-waist jeans.

MATRICULATION AND GRADUATION CEREMONIES

During matriculation and graduation ceremonies, students are expected to dress formally, in academic gowns.

IMPLEMENTATION

- i. **Exclusion of Students from Lectures and Services**
Lecturers and Administrators are empowered to correct/exclude students from lectures and official business when they are not properly dressed.
- ii. **Counselling and Endorsement of Records**
Violators, depending on the specific circumstances, would be counselled failing which they will face the Students' Disciplinary Committee and have their records endorsed accordingly.

STUDENTS ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE UNIVERSITY HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE GENERALITY OF PARENTS IN ENSURING THAT STUDENTS DRESS DECENTLY AT ALL TIMES.

WHAT NOT TO WEAR ❌

WHAT TO WEAR ✅



The image displays two columns of photographs. The left column, under the heading 'WHAT NOT TO WEAR' with a red 'X' icon, shows various examples of inappropriate clothing: midriffs, buttocks, and excessive skin exposure. The right column, under the heading 'WHAT TO WEAR' with a green checkmark icon, shows various examples of appropriate, modest clothing: button-down shirts, blouses, and trousers.

What is well-being?

Many definitions:

- ▶ “the **state** of being comfortable, healthy, or happy.” (WHO, 2015)
- ▶ ‘good or satisfactory **condition** of existence; a state characterized by health, happiness, and prosperity; welfare’...(Jenna Sinclair, 2021)
- ▶ WHO (2005) has already indicated, wellbeing is a **multidimensional construct** consisting of psychological, emotional and social aspects of functioning.
- ▶ **My working definition:**
...**state of connectedness** ...what makes one “**click**” or “**tick**” or “**fit**” in a given social and cultural space/society. (well-being = good life).

What is sexuality?

Common definitions:

- ▶ ‘Sexuality is a word we use to talk about [how we understand our bodies and how we understand our relationships](#)’... (Sexuality Education Resource Centre, 2021).
- ▶ Sexuality is about your **sexual feelings, thoughts, attractions and behaviour towards others**
- ▶ **Its not about who you have sex with but **how you have it****: can be **heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or asexual** (little or no feelings of attraction to any) orientation.

▶ My working definition of sexuality?

How students [deliberately/consciously] **use/idolize their bodies** to **influence favorable outcomes** in **pursuit of good life**.

It is **not limited to sex intercourse...**but other **actions/activities....**

“Sexuality defines ones identity”

TheStudy Objectives?

- i. Examine how individual male and female students have used idolization of their bodies(identity) as a pathway for wellbeing;
- ii. Assesses the various channels used to propagate sexual activities in co-creation of new forms of moralities.
- iii. Illustrate how individuals contest, (re)negotiate and (re)define identities and moralities to achieve good life and how these processes are gendered.

Main Research Questions?

- i. How have individual male and female students used idolization of their bodies (identity) as a pathway for wellbeing?
- ii. What are the various channels used to propagate sexual activities in co-creation of new forms of moralities?
- iii. How do individuals contest, (re)negotiate and (re)define identities and moralities to achieve good life and how these processes are gendered?

Why Sexuality and well-being among students?

- i. Well-being as an **emerging body of knowledge** - level of happiness, welfare and satisfaction? Major concern in modern society...
- ii. **Toxic mix**: High expectations/pressure on Students, freedom, many challenges, reality of bad/good life? ***How do they come out of it?***
One of the most common means is by use of their sexuality.
- iii. Universities/colleges provide the **best space** to study contestations between individual and collective moralities.

Theoretical orientation?

Hedonistic theory of well-being(Crisps, 2017) - one who pursues happiness: pleasure/comfort/welfare/avoids pain and suffering - they live “**one day**”.

Most students are impatient/short cuts to life/no pain or struggle.

Negotiated morality theory (Waldron, et al., 2017). **Ones morality is defined by his/her family, culture, religion, community, peer groups.**

Where does morality start and end? whose morality?

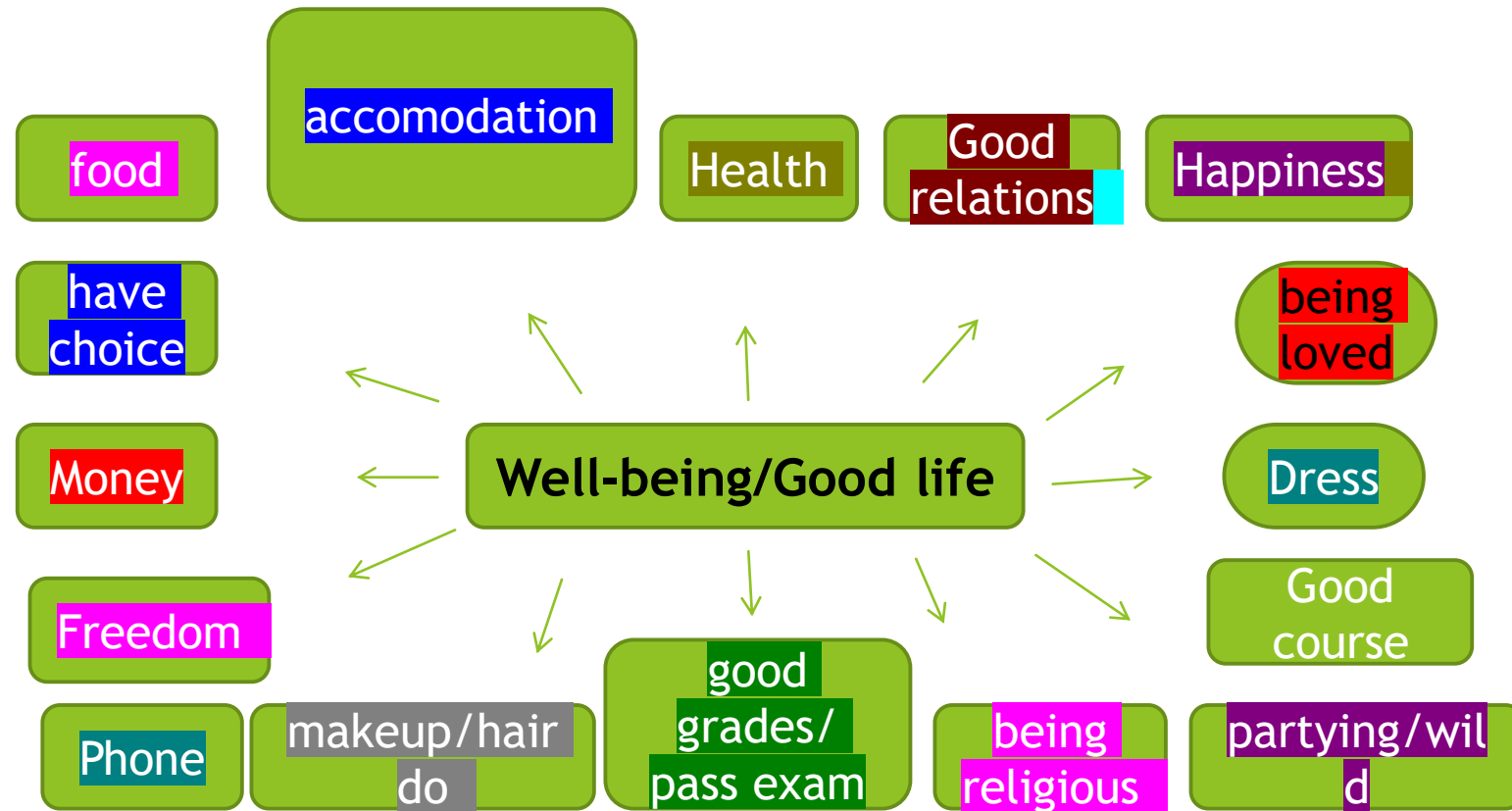
Methodology

Sampling Procedure			
	Focused Discussions (FGDs) (6-8 persons)	Group	Key informant Interviews (KIs)
Lagos sites	FGDs	Number of Persons	Number of persons
UNILAG	4	32	10
LASU	4	32	10
FCE	4	32	10
AOCE	4	32	10
Total	16	128	40

► (n=168, students-160, staff-8)

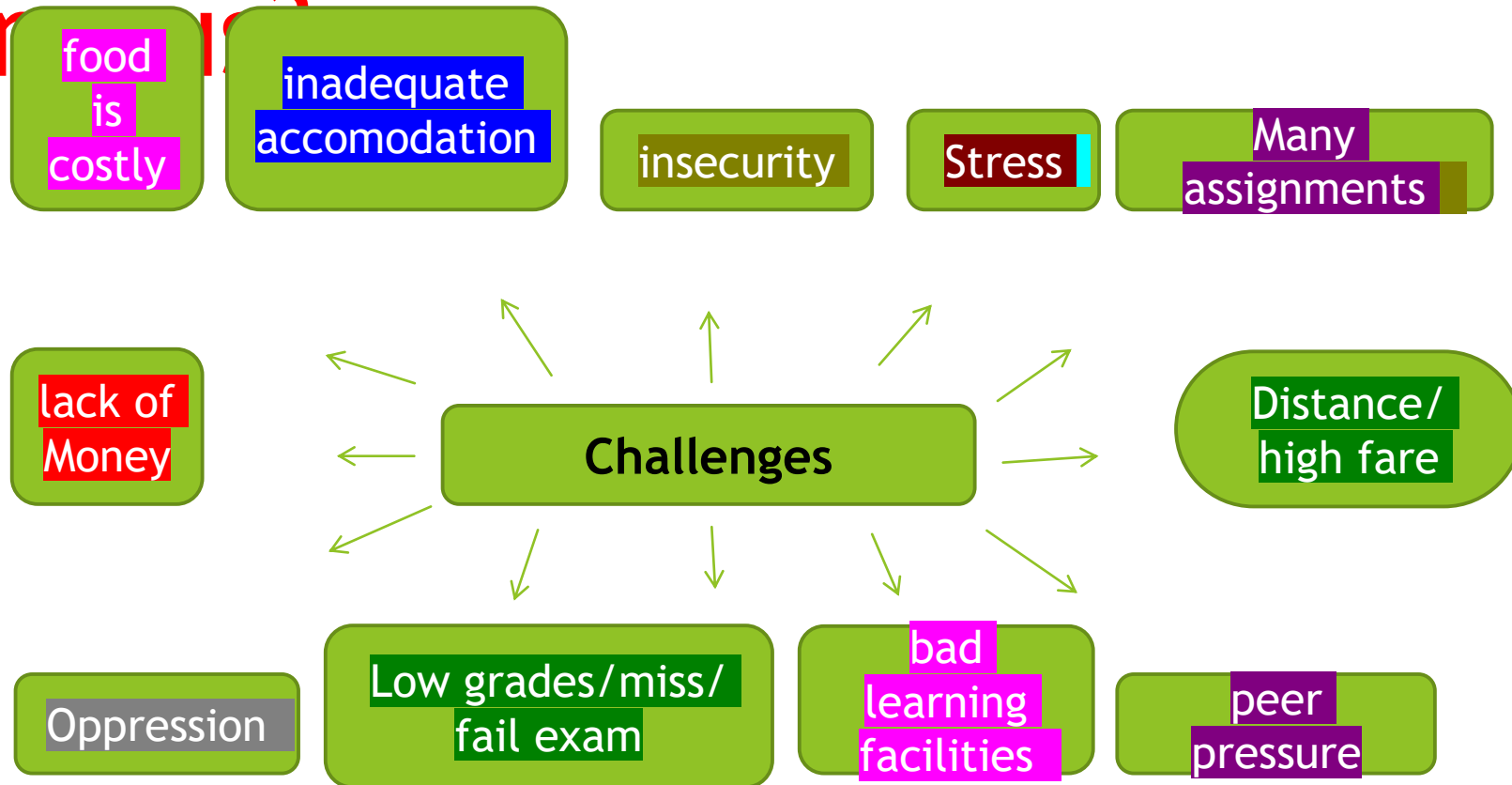
► NB: Ethical issues: **Permission/Consent/Anonymity**

Results: Stds def. of good life?



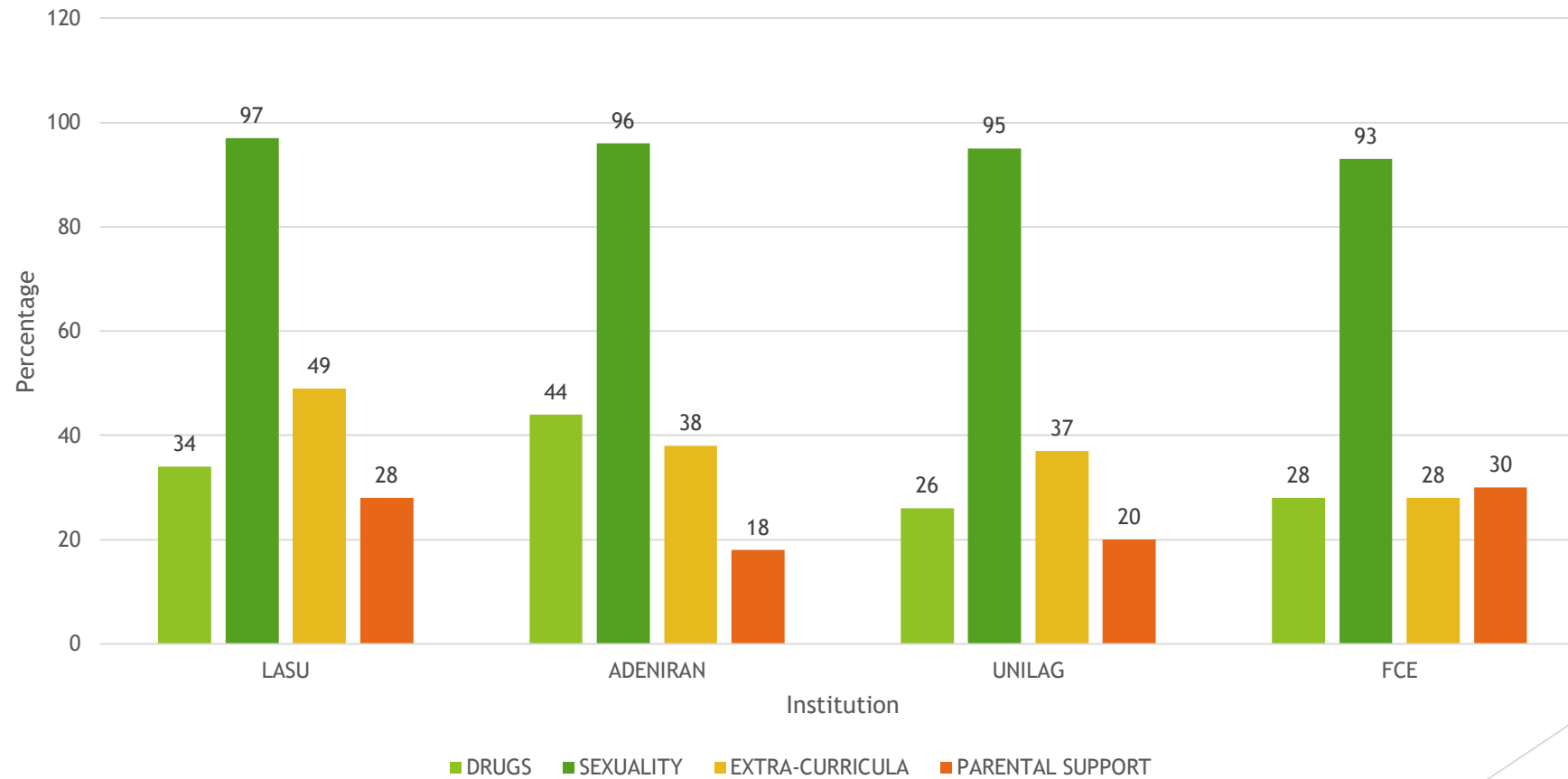
Result: Challenges on

campus?



Results: How do stds Come out of Challenges?

How I resolve my challenges on campus (n=160)



Why Sexuality?

- ▶ Attitude shift: cool/easiest option “Use what you have to get what you want”
- ▶ Peer influence/pressure/intimidation/oppression
- ▶ Freedom including sexual freedom/experiment
- ▶ Shift in morality - virginity is hated/sex experience valued
- ▶ It is the **popular culture** within and without the learning institution
- ▶ Individuals **operate autonomous** of collective morality
- ▶ For **ladies**, it is **a special gift** to deal with many men
- ▶ **Authority** - circumvented/compromised/beneficeries

How does it happen?

- ▶ Sex language and codes - Symbolic body marks ([piercing/tattoo](#)),
 - For gay, they walk by swinging/hair/lip stick.
- ▶ Sex as legal tender of payment - [Clitocurrency](#) and [Sleeptocurrency](#)
- ▶ Dress code - Revealing dresses
- ▶ Facial make up and hair do - for attraction and attention seeking
- ▶ Sexual Intercourse - not for pleasure (Example: Boss/exam/money/paying back)
- ▶ Parties - Birthdays/yahooboy/rich guys/money splashing parties([cash in](#))
- ▶ Ushering - Functions (bargaining power high for University/college students)
- ▶ Spaces - gardens/hostels([gay headquarter](#))/lagoon/houses/bars/brothels
- ▶ Hook ups/brokers - Tinder/Her/eharmony/Puf/badoo/wechat/zook/Okcupid
- ▶ Sex for survival - Staff([Aristos](#)) - In admissions and hostels
- ▶ Brilliant boys - Write projects for ladies pay by sex direct or money from Aristos

Implications and Conclusion

- i. Sexuality - **Instrument of power** (male/female)- tool for negotiation
- ii. Sexuality is a pathway to goodlife/well-being among students
- iii. Risks involved is **a none-issue** to actors
- iv. Students have gone overboard - they are now chasing life beyond a student's status - **Challenges quality of our graduates/outsource**
- v. Institutional moral Enforcers - **meet requirements/most don't belief** in what they are enforcing


Recommendations

► Society to revisit our value systems (Students/youth):

- i. Embrace **value of human dignity** - sexuality as option??? lowest one can go
- ii. **Value hardwork/earn a living** - **Sexuality corrupting their future**
- iii. Students to be taught to **live as students** / justify future / problems part of life
- iv. Freedom is not **self destruction** - moderated

Institutions :

- i. More **proactives policies** - moderate/good examples/provide fairness in WB
- ii. Programs **Character formation** - lecturers Values/attitudes/ rethink age?


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And So On And So On

BALLOTING FEE
N20, 000

CONTACT US

THANK YOU

▶ END OF MY
PRESENTATION