

**THE FADING EFFECT OF RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS  
AMONG NIGERIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

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UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY**

**September, 2023**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, FACULTY OF EDUCATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE  
OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA (Ed) IN RELIGIONS**

**September, 2023**

## CERTIFICATION

I certify that this research work was carried out by **Wisdom Ovuakporoyirhi OGHOMA** under my direct supervision in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dr. A.E. OSAWARU**  
(Head of Department)

.....  
Date

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project work to my loving parents, Engr. Emmanuel Oghoma and Dr Mrs. Victoria Oghoma. Your sacrifices and dedication to my education inspire me every day. This accomplishment is a reflection of your love and commitment. Thank you for being my pillars of strength

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First and foremost, I acknowledge God Almighty for His boundless love, care, and guidance. His divine presence has been a constant source of inspiration and strength, guiding me through the challenges and triumphs of this endeavor.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my project supervisor, Dr. Philip Isanbor, whose guidance have been instrumental in shaping this project.

I would also like to express my appreciation to my dear friend James Friday, for his support and encouragement, Your friendship has made this journey not only academically enriching but also personally rewarding.

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## ABSTRACT

This study examined the fading effect of religious consciousness among university students in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the University of Benin. This study sought to find out the role of the university education in promoting religious consciousness among students, the extent which western culture and values influence the religious consciousness among university and the extent which social media influences religious consciousness among university students. Three research questions were raised to guide the study.

The population of the study comprised of the entire fulltime (400 level) final year undergraduate students in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Benin. The simple random sampling technique was used to select twenty (20) students from five course areas in the Department of Educational Foundation. A structured questionnaire was used as the instrument for the study.

Data collected were analyzed using Simple Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ) and Standard Deviation (SD) were to analyze the data meant to answer the research questions. The findings from the research questions include that: Western culture and values influence the religious consciousness of university students, Social media influence religious consciousness among university to a large extent. Based on the findings, the researcher recommended that religious instruction should be entrenched in the university curriculum. This is imperative as we assume that religion brings the fear of God and consequently that students who fear God would not engage in unruly behaviour, and this would make for a peaceful atmosphere.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background to the Study**

Religion is a global phenomenon and practice that plays a predominant role in the spiritual formation and traditional belief system of any nation. Religion holds a significant position in shaping the values, beliefs, and behaviors of individuals, especially in societies where it holds a prominent role. In its simplest form, religion can be defined as a spectrum of beliefs and principles that guide the relation between people and a Supreme Being they perceive to be their Maker. Religion is such an interesting phenomenon in human life and history that cannot be ignored because from creation, man has always demonstrated a natural inclination toward faith and belief in anything he considers superior or difficult to understand. Perhaps, one of the most attitudes of mankind is religion (Uche-Eze, 2020)..

Nigeria, known for its diverse religious landscape, has traditionally been regarded as a country deeply rooted in religious traditions and practices. Nigeria has a diverse religious landscape, with Christianity and Islam being

the dominant religions. However, there are also many other traditional religions and beliefs that coexist with these two major religions. Religion has plays a significant role in shaping Nigerian society and culture, providing a framework for understanding the world and one's place in it, as well as a source of comfort, guidance, and community. Religion has also been a powerful force for social and political change in Nigeria, with religious leaders and organizations playing key roles in the struggle for independence and human rights (Adeleke, 2018).

Over the years, there is has been a high level of religious consciousness in Nigeria and Nigeria's educational system has also been significantly influenced by religion and its various activities (Umeanolue, 2020). Thus, in order to provide education, missionaries in the past and religious organizations were among the first to establish schools and universities in the nation. Although these organizations have changed over time to become secular organizations, religion continues to have a significant impact on education. To this end, religious groups and organizations could play significant roles in the lives of students in

universities in Nigeria, where students engage in religious practices like prayer, worship, and fellowship among others.

Nevertheless, in recent years, there has been a growing concern about the fading effect of religious consciousness among Nigeria university students. For example, irrespective of the presence of religious activities on campus, there are instances of students engaging in immoral act such as prostitution, examination malpractices and the increase of cult related activities among others. From the above scenario, one is bothered about the role of religion in shaping the values and beliefs of young people in Nigeria especially those in the university level of education. Some academic scholars have (Ogugua and Ogugua, 2015; Odikpa & Abubakar, 2020) among others) have argue that the decline in religious consciousness among students is a reflection of the growing influence of Western culture and values, which prioritize individualism, materialism, and secularism. Others point to the impact of social media, globalization and technology could be the reason for the gradual reduction of religious consciousness within and outside the university community and thus making it easier for young people to question or challenge religious teachings (Oyekan, 2017). In light of these

developments, there is a need for deeper exploration and analysis of the fading effect of religious consciousness among Nigerian university students, with a particular focus on the University of Benin.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Religion, which as described by Karl Marx described is “the opium of the masses”. That it, is a social phenomenon which plays a significant role in creating peaceful co-existence, strengthens social relations among mankind; it is oftentimes employed in the political system of the country, at other time times, it could influence policy making processes of the nation. In a bid to achieve these and other goals, the university system is saddled with the responsibility of preparation of human resources, so as to enable them work in all the fields which the society needs. Despite the premium placed on the university system in Nigeria with the attendant religious activities that goes on with the system, concerns has been raised about the declining influence of religion among Nigerian university students. Important questions about this phenomenon's effects on national social cohesion and religious identity are raised. It is important to ascertain therefore the causes of this fading effect, gauge its impact on students' beliefs and behaviors, and identify

potential solutions to address and lessen its effects. Hence, this study is directed at examining the fading effect of religious consciousness among Nigerian university students, with a particular focus on the University of Benin.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to examine the fading effect of religious consciousness among university students in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the University of Benin. Specifically, the study sought to examine:

- a. The role of the university education in promoting religious consciousness among students
- b. The extent which western culture and values influence the religious consciousness among university
- c. The extent which social media influences religious consciousness among university
- d. The extent which technology influences religious consciousness among university

## **Research Questions**

The following research questions have been raised to guide this study:

- a. What extent has western culture and values influence the religious consciousness among university?
- b. What extent has social media influence religious consciousness among university?
- c. What extent has technology influence religious consciousness among university?

## **Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study will help inform educational institutions, policymakers, and religious communities about the challenges and potential solutions associated with religious consciousness among university students, thus facilitating the development of strategies to address this issue and support the religious well-being of students.

The results of this study would assist academic institutions, like the University of Benin, in creating inclusive policies and assistance programs that addresses the difficulties faced by students in relation to their religious

beliefs. This may foster a climate in which students from various religious backgrounds are respected and supported.

The finding from this study is crucial for promoting social cohesion among students who are majorly adolescents and youths in Nigeria. Hence, finding from this study would aid in the development of strategies that will encourage religious tolerance and interfaith dialogue, which are crucial for preserving harmony in a society with a wide range of religions.

The findings of this study would provide valuable insights into the changing dynamics of religious identity among Nigerian university students and contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the subject.

### **Scope /Delimitation of the Study**

This study is meant to examine the fading effect of religious consciousness among Nigerian university students, with a particular focus on the University of Benin. The study will be conducted at the University of Benin (Ugbowo Campus) with final year students from the Faculty of Education. .

## **Operational Definition of Terms**

**Religion:** is a system of beliefs, practices, and values centered on the worship of a higher power or spiritual entity.

**Fading Effect:** in the context of this study, it refers to the gradual decline or weakening of religious consciousness and engagement among Nigeria university students over time

**Religious Consciousness:** The level of awareness, understanding, and adherence to religious beliefs, values, and practices among individuals

**Moral development:** The process of acquiring and internalizing ethical principles, values, and behaviors influenced by religious teachings and beliefs (Ojo, 2017).

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The review of related literatures will be carried out under the following sub-headings:

- Concept of Religion
- Concept of Religious Consciousness
- The Role of the University in Promoting Religious Consciousness among Students
- Influence of Western Culture and Values on Religious Consciousness among University Students
- Influence of Technology on Religious Consciousness among University Students
- Summary of Reviewed Literature

#### **Concept of Religion**

Religion is a fundamental, perhaps the most significant, influence in the life of most Africans hence the importance of Religion in any human community cannot be over emphasized. Throughout history, academics from a variety of disciplines have examined the complex and multifaceted concept

of religion. It covers a broad spectrum of values, customs, ceremonies, and encounters that center on the sacred or the transcendent. Religion is an effort by humans to search for meaning, to understand reality and place them in a relationship with reality. Religion is therefore an epistemological activity. Religion is not only an intellectual, cognitive experience, as at times happen in Western culture. Religion encapsulates the whole human being (Belinda, 2019).

Alao (2019) defined religion as “man’s effective desire to be in right relationship with a sacred transcendental order, controlling human destiny and events, either a prescribed system of rituals and of belief”. Alao (2019) defined religion as essentially a relation he stated that religion is the recognition of all our duties as divine ship, a link established by the human person and the divine person believed to exist. It can be deduced from the definitions above that religion conveys the following information, first, features of a Supernatural Being, secondly the belief in that Being and lastly a feeling of awe and mystery in response to the command of that supernatural being. The writer, therefore, defined religion as our “absolute acknowledgement of dependence on the supernatural Being who sets and

controls the entire affairs of life and the universe, hence attracting our reverence and obedience”. This dimension may have been responsible for the emotional power that religion sometimes have on the adherents.

Ottuh and Onimhawo (2010) offers a psychological explanation of religion. He contends that fundamental psychological needs, such as the need for solace, safety, and the easing of existential apprehensions, are the origin of religion. As an illusion that satisfies these psychological needs and gives people a sense of control, meaning, and comfort in the face of life's uncertainties, Ottuh and Onimhawo asserts that religious practices and beliefs act as a coping mechanism for the challenges and worries that come with being a human.

Religion is one of the human engagements that have greatly influenced the life of many nations of the world. Religion is a force that encourages peaceful co-existence in any given society; it is also a major force for social and moral changes. Religion is a social institution concerned with beliefs, actions, and in actions of a society through which the values, norms, ethics and traditions are defined, embedded and expressed within the cosmology of the people<sup>4</sup>. It has made recognizable impact on the political,

physical, social, cultural, moral, spiritual and economic affairs of the modern world, it is embraced by about two third of the world population which indicates the significant role it plays in the affairs of the world ( Odikpa & Abubakar, 2022)

Rimansikwe and Hilary (2013) define religion as a reality in human existence which pervades through life, and also relates how man socializes with the Supernatural world or the Divine Being. Omoghene and Okolie (2020:29) argue that one's religion is what makes one a complete whole. In its simplest form, religion can be defined as a spectrum of beliefs and principles that guide the relation between people and a Supreme Being they perceive to be their Maker (Uche Eze, 2020). Religion is the oldest discipline in human history. In recent times, religion has become an important factor for public debates and discourses. It has engineered political discussions and mobilization Religion is therefore "the feelings, acts, and experiences of individual men in their solitude, insofar as they perceive themselves to stand in relation to whatever they may consider the divine". With their various points of view, these authors help us to understand religion in its entirety. They collectively highlight the social, symbolic,

experiential, psychological, and existential dimensions of religion despite the fact that their definitions and interpretations may differ. According to Esan (2013), religion includes not only doctrines and rituals but also societal patterns, cultural manifestations, and personal encounters with the transcendent or sacred. It acts as a basis for moral instruction, a source of meaning and purpose, a framework for understanding the world, and a way to promote social cohesion and personal growth. Religion offers a moral foundation for guiding people's behavior and cultivating a sense of community. Clifford in Belinda (2019) describes religion as "a system of symbols that acts to establish powerful, pervasive, and long-lasting moods and motivations in men by formulating conceptions of a general order of existence and clothing these conceptions with such an aura of factuality that the moods and motivations seem uniquely realistic" Religion entails a search for the sacred and a separation of the sacred and the profane. Religious experiences give people a sense of connection to an elevated, transcendent reality that is distinct from the ordinary world. Religious experiences have the power to transform people, enabling them to look beyond their common worries and discover a deeper sense of meaning and purpose.

## **Concept of Religious Consciousness**

Religion is such an interesting phenomenon in human life and history that cannot be ignored because from creation, man has always demonstrated a natural inclination toward faith and belief in anything he considers superior or difficult to understand. Perhaps, one of the most attitudes of mankind is religion. Imperatively, religion is one of the valuable components of human dispositions in the world. everywhere in the world, humans are adherents of one religions or the other. Evidently, religion cannot be separated from human activities. Religion is widely believed to be a universal aspect of human culture.

The modern English term **consciousness** is derived primarily from the Latin word *consci*, "knowing, aware." Thus, consciousness is the basic factor of perception and understanding. Consciousness is the capacity for perception and understanding, and is therefore the basis of any living thing. Since living things are not equal and have a great deal of variety, so too does consciousness: it has infinite potential for development, either towards the heights of perfection or towards the depths of degeneration.

Religious consciousness, which includes the subjective experience, religious beliefs, and religious practices, is a multifaceted and intricate idea. It involves a person's awareness, comprehension, and participation in religious concepts, practices, symbols, and values. Many academics and philosophers have debated and examined the concept of "religious consciousness" throughout history. Religious consciousness entails an intimate encounter with a divine or transcendent reality. Religious experiences are intensely personal and come in a variety of shapes, including mystical encounters, conversions, and intense religious fervor. James thought that religious consciousness gives people a sense of meaning, purpose, and connection to something bigger than themselves. Religious consciousness arises from the interaction between "ultimate concern" and the individual's existential circumstance. It is believed that person's profound concern for ultimate meaning, which can be manifested through faith, is what defines religious consciousness. He emphasized that religious consciousness is a universal human response to existential concerns and the yearning for transcendence rather than being restricted to particular religious traditions.

Ikenna (2019) asserted that religion has been a dominant factor in Nigerian politics especially in this post-independence era. In whichever way one sees religion, the fact cannot be denied of its interaction with politics in Nigeria. The obvious interplay between religion and politics has attracted the reactions of scholars and what seems the consensus of such reactions is the ambivalent role of religion in the growth, development, and survival of the Nigerian nation.

Carl (2014) contributed important knowledge about religious consciousness. Jung placed a strong emphasis on the archetypal nature of religious experiences and symbols in his writings on individuation and the collective unconscious. According to Jung, the universal symbols and themes that reside in the deep layers of the human psyche are the source of religious consciousness. According to his theory, religious experiences and symbols can help people access their transcendent dimensions of self and the collective unconscious.

## **The Role of the University in Promoting Religious Consciousness among Students**

Preparing and rehabilitating the human resources is considered one of the universities' major goals, and the universities seek to achieve the ideal preparation of human resources, so as to enable them work in all the fields which the society need. And to achieve this goal, the universities coordinate with the society's different institutions to provide the components of youth care with all of its mental, psychological, social and psychical aspects, and anything that can help in launching the youth's capabilities in different fields at the same time.

According to Idiku (2014), a university is an acclaimed centre of excellence where intellectual cross fertilization of ideas systematically takes place, all geared towards the development of the individual intellectual capacity, resourcefulness and character moulding for overall societal advancement in all fields of enquiry. Universities worldwide adopt principally a two-pronged approach of instruction and research for intellectual development evidenced at the end of award of degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions. As a centre of excellence, the university is

at all times looked upon as the epitome of perfection and it behoves on all members of the university community to exemplify in any given circumstance the role model attribute inferred by society on the institution and the members thereof. It needs to be emphasized that universities generally award academic distinctions on persons who have been adjudged fit in both character and learning for the award. In order to ensure that the university maintains its name as centre of excellence Examining the roles that universities can play in fostering and promoting religious awareness is necessary in light of the rapidly fading religious consciousness among Nigerian university students.

*Offering Religious Studies Programs and Courses:* By providing thorough religious studies programs and courses, universities play a significant role in fostering religious consciousness. These educational opportunities give students the chance to learn about various religious traditions, investigate the tenets and values of their own religion, and participate in insightful discussions about religion (Cadge, 2017). Universities may, for instance, create specialized faculties or departments for religious studies, offering classes in comparative religion, theology, or religious ethics. Through these

programs, students are exposed to various religious viewpoints and are given a deeper understanding of various religious traditions.

*Creating Interfaith Dialogue Spaces:* Universities can foster interfaith understanding and dialogue among students by creating spaces for such conversations. Students from various religious backgrounds can learn from one another and foster respect in these spaces by having open and respectful conversations (Hufford, 2019). For instance, universities can host interfaith dialogue sessions or create interfaith centers where students can gather to discuss religious practices, share their beliefs, and form bonds with people of different faiths. These programs encourage empathy, tolerance, and a sense of community among the students.

*Supporting Religious Student Organizations:* Universities can assist and support religious student organizations on campus by giving them resources. These groups act as venues for the expression of religion, the development of communities, and the planning of religious activities and events (Glanzer et al., 2019).

Universities enable religious student organizations to engage in religious practices, host religious festivals, and hold spiritual retreats by providing

funding, meeting spaces, and logistical support. Examples of organizations that foster religious consciousness and promote religious growth among students include Christian fellowships, Muslim student associations, and Hindu cultural groups.

*Integrating Religious Practices into Campus Life:* Universities can incorporate religious rituals and practices into the campus population, encouraging students to develop a sense of religion. Universities give students the chance to practice their religion and express their faith by observing and honoring religious holidays and observances (Boyd, 2017). For instance, during religious holidays like Eid al-Fitr, Christmas, or Diwali, universities can plan campus-wide activities or services. A sense of community and spiritual connection are fostered while allowing students to actively participate in their religious traditions through ceremonies, cultural performances, and educational sessions.

*Getting Involved with Local Religious Communities:* Universities can form fruitful alliances and partnerships with regional religious groups, giving students access to religious leaders, practitioners, and institutions outside of the campus setting (Mbugua, 2014). Students can interact with religious

leaders, take part in religious rituals, and learn about religious practices firsthand through field trips, internships, or community engagement programs. These interactions help students develop a broader worldview, a deeper understanding of religious traditions, and a stronger religious identity.

### **Influence of Western Culture and Values on Religious Consciousness among University Students**

Nigeria is becoming more connected to the rest of the world, and as a result, Western cultural influences are permeating many facets of Nigerian society, including religious practices and beliefs. Babatunde, Beatrice, Olugbenga and Opeyemi (2019) examined the missing links in Nigerian education, religion and culture. It determined stakeholders' perception of diversity in all ramifications of life. It also examined the best practices to annex the diversity through education for national development and determined the influence of gender on stakeholders' perception of diversity in Nigeria. These were with the views to providing information on how there could be peaceful coexistence among the diverse sets of people in Nigeria. It is regrettably that the Western culture continues to thrive and outgrow African cultural heritage. Traditional African cultural practices continue to

pave way for Western way of doing things as Africans yearn for ‘Westernization’. Regrettably, African ways of doing things are no longer in the public domain. Colonialism has indeed robbed the continent of opportunities: opportunities of self-development, of self-government, and of self-styled technological development pace so much so that when youths engage with the media they crave for Western norms and values. While it is easily said that penetration of western values into African societies has diminished local cultural values it is imperative to note that the multicultural nature of our society has been ignored. Most African countries have been failing to recognize the enriching value of diverse cultures.

Nigeria, for example, is culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse. Cultural diversity exists in today’s ‘global village’ as the effect of global media and the emergence of contemporary new media technologies. Diverse and remote cultures are becoming accessible via our television, radio and the internet. In spite of the negative effects of colonialism in Africa, the world remains “a colourful landscape of different languages, skin colours, and different cultures. Benson (2017) stated that Western culture places a strong emphasis on secular values and individualism, which may be

causing Nigerian university students to be less religious. Students who are exposed to Western ideas and viewpoints may become more inclined to value material success and independence over religious piety. For instance, the pursuit of individual success and professional goals may take precedence over religious commitments, resulting in a decline in religious awareness among university students. University students in Nigeria who have been exposed to Western cultural values may view religion less objectively and more as a matter of personal preference (Geertz, 2016). As a result, there may be less emphasis placed on religious commitment and less religious awareness.

Western fashion trends, social norms, and lifestyles may obscure religious values and practices (Amadi, 2018). The adoption of Western fashion trends, musical tastes, and entertainment preferences may cause a departure from conventional religious expressions. As students become more influenced by Western cultural influences, this cultural assimilation may contribute to a decline in religious consciousness. There are many different aspects to the phenomenon of how Western culture and values affect religious awareness among Nigerian university students. Secularization,

individualism, consumerism, media, education, peer groups, gender roles, and Westernization are just a few of the various influences that have been mentioned that have an impact on the religious landscape of students in Nigeria. Understanding the difficulties in preserving and reviving religious consciousness among university students in the Nigerian context depends on being able to recognize these influences.

### **Influence of Social Media on Religious Consciousness among University Students**

With the rapid growth of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and YouTube, millions of people around the world have made social media part of their daily routines (Krasnova, Veltri & Günther, 2012). This increase in social media usage has greatly affected the lives of social media users in the way that they interact and socialize with others, attracting the attention of the researchers. Using social media allows people to interact and engage with family and friends, as well as meet new people from around over the world (Güven, 2019). Social media use has become commonplace in contemporary society, with four out of five people that have access to the Internet using some form of social media. Users spend far more time on

social media than they use the Internet for any other purpose, and many users spend hours on social networking sites each day (Vidyakala and Nithyakala 2016). This explosion of social media use currently incorporates billions of people providing an enormous potential for creating change within society. Consequently, many people have successfully used social media successfully as a tool to promote societal change, even within the context of religious causes (Lim 2017). Social media is today a vast phenomenon, impacting many aspects of human life. People from all over the world use social media and develop virtual communities; with teenagers as the most enthusiastic users.

According to Hansen, Saridakis, & Benson (2018). Social media has become an integral part of the daily lives of many users and will remain with mankind. It breaks down barriers between the offline and the online world . It also transcends ethnicity, culture and religion. Muslim Arab users are now considered among the most active users on social media

## **Influence of Technology on Religious Consciousness among University Students**

Technology is a collection of techniques, methods used in the accomplishment of certain objectives or goals. It involves the use of various information technology tools such as computers and mobile phones that accelerates the flow of information from one place to another or from one individual to another. The aim of technology in any organization is to change the way we communicate with one another. It has affected the way of living among human beings in various aspects of life which includes: education, religion, health, transport and communication, industry etc. Technology makes it easier for communities to form online around common interests, including discussions about religion (Kapogiannis et al., 2019). While these groups can offer assistance and opportunities for knowledge exchange, they can also serve as echo chambers for secular ideas or reinforce the denigration of religious convictions.

Technology has become part and parcel of university students' everyday lives, filling a substantial portion of the constructive minutes and hours of their days (Jechoutek, 2004). Technology has been on the increase

in the recent centuries and this has triggered mixed opinions to many aspects of the human society. He went ahead to suggest that, the spiritual health of university students is one of aspects of life that has been greatly affected. “Especially taking into consideration that university students use technology than any other group of people” (Marma, 2018,). “Some university students” spiritual life has been totally diverted by technology to the extent that some even think that they can accomplish anything with technology, thus despising the need for divine intervention in their lives” (Barna Group, 2016). However, at the same time technology has moulded the spiritual life of some university students. Thus, becoming faithful believers of God.

### **Summary of Reviewed Literature**

This chapter reviewed several literatures under the concept of religion, concept of religious consciousness, the role of the university in promoting religious consciousness among students, influence of western culture and values on religious consciousness among university students, influence of technology on religious consciousness among university students, summary of reviewed literature from the extant literatures reviewed in this chapter, it is apparent that there is a decline in religious

consciousness among Nigerian university students. First of all, there is a decline in students' religious participation and affiliation as a result of elements like Western influence, globalization, and modernization. Higher education significantly influences students' religious beliefs, and studies indicate that as students learn more and are exposed to diverse viewpoints, their religious consciousness may wane. Traditional religious beliefs and religious consciousness may be challenged by Western cultural values like individualism and secularism.

Social dynamics and peer interactions have an impact on students' religious consciousness as well, as peer pressure and the need for acceptance may have a fading effect on religious practices and beliefs. Social media sites have both beneficial and detrimental effects; they give users access to religious content while also exposing them to secular viewpoints and distractions. The multi-cultural and multi-religious environment in Nigeria encourages religious diversity and the possibility of disputes between various worldviews. Religious organizations on campus, which offer activities, direction, and a supportive community, as well as family background and religious upbringing, play a significant role in influencing

students' religious consciousness. Students' religious consciousness may also be impacted by the academic environment, including the curriculum and faculty influences, which may either challenge or support religious beliefs. And finally, individual experiences like adversity or spiritual occasions can either deepen or weaken a person's religious commitment. In order to create interventions and support systems that will encourage and maintain religious consciousness among students, universities, religious organizations, and policymakers must fully comprehend these influences.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHOD OF THE STUDY**

This chapter presents a description of the methods that will be used in carrying out the study under the following sub headings:

- Design of the Study
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Administration and Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

#### **Design of the Study**

The research design that was used for this study is the survey research design. According to Ewuruigwe (2019), survey is devoted to the gathering of information about prevailing conditions or situations for the purpose of description and interpretation. It involves the selection of respondents (sample) from a larger population to determine and report their view/opinions in the way things are. This design was found most appropriate

for this study because the study uses information from the respondents on their opinion using a questionnaire.

### **Population of the Study**

The population of the study comprised of the entire fulltime (400 level) final year undergraduate students in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, There are five (5) course areas in the Department of Educational Foundations with a total of four hundred and thirty seven (437) final year students.

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

The simple random sampling technique was used to select twenty (20) students from five course areas in the Department of Educational Foundation. The sample size consisting of one hundred students (100) will be used for this study.

### **Research Instrument**

A structured questionnaire was used as the instrument for the study. The questionnaire will be developed by the researcher; it was titled "Religious Activities on Students Indiscipline Questionnaire". The instrument will comprise of two (2) sections A and B. Section A seek for demographic

data of the respondents such as age gender class level sex etc. while Section B consist of twenty (20) items responded to in order to solicit response to the variables in the research questions and this was done using likert scale of strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), strongly disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) and also Yes or No

### **Validity of the instrument**

To ascertain the face and content validity of the instrument, the questionnaire was presented to the project supervisor for validation. This is to ascertain if the variables of the study are represented in the questionnaire instrument. The project supervisor's observations, suggestions and correction were incorporated in the final copy of the instrument and thereafter used for the study.

### **Reliability of the Instrument**

To determine the reliability of the instrument the test-retest method was used where the same questionnaire were administered twice to the same student within an interval of two weeks and the result gathered were analyzed using Pearsons Moment Correlation Coefficient(s).

### **Method of Data Collection**

The researcher personally administered the instrument to the respondents. The researcher properly briefed the respondents on the aim of the study and on how to respond to the items of the questionnaire. Completed questionnaire were collected on the spot by the researcher

### **Method of data analysis**

Data collected were analyzed using Simple Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ) and Standard Deviation (SD) were to analyze the data meant to answer the research questions. The Mean ( $\bar{X}$ ) rating of 2.50 was used for decision point such that only item less than 2.50 was regarded as disagree while mean rating equals or above 2.50 was regarded as agreed.

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF**  
**FINDINGS**

This chapter deals with data analysis and the discussion of the findings. The results of the analysis are presented according to the order of the research questions that guided the study.

**Analysis of Demographic Information**

**Table 1: Gender Response**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Male	66	66%
2	Female	34	34%
3	Total	100	100%

**Source: Field Work, 2021**

From the Table1, responses indicate that majority of the respondents are male.

**Research Question 1:** What extent has western culture and values influence the religious consciousness among university?

**Table 2:** Extent western culture and values influence the religious consciousness among university

S/N	Influence of Western Culture and Values on Religious Consciousness	N	Score	Mean (X)	(SD)	Remark
1	Western culture has influence on our students	100	356	3.56	.499	Agreed
2	most university students have preferences for western entertainment to religious activities	100	326	3.26	.630	Agreed
3	Students see religion less accurate due to western influence	100	352	3.52	.541	Agreed
4	Some students put less emphasis on religious commitment due to western culture	100	348	3.48	.577	Agreed
5	Most university students have adopted Western fashion trends,	100	338	3.38	.528	Agreed

From Table 2, in item 1, it was discovered that the respondent agreed that Western culture has influence on our students with a mean response of 3.56. In item 2, it was also found that the respondents agreed that most

university students have preferences for western entertainment to religious activities with a mean score of 3.26. Also it was discovered in item 3, that the respondents agreed that Students see religion less accurate due to western influence with a mean response of 3.52. it was also discovered from the analysis in item 4, that the respondents agreed that Some students put less emphasis on religious commitment due to western culture with a mean score of 3.48 and in item 5, respondents agreed that Most university students have adopted Western fashion trends,.. Therefore, it can be deduced that western culture and values influence the religious consciousness of university students

**Research Question 2:** What extent has social media influence religious consciousness among university?

**Table 3: Parent’s** extent social media influence religious consciousness among university

	<b>Influence of Social Media on Religious Consciousness</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Scores</b>	<b>Mean (x)</b>	<b>(S.D)</b>	<b>Remark</b>
1	Students hold on to religious views they get from social media	100	298	2.98	.816	Agreed
2	Students hold meetings related to religious activities through social media	100	260	2.60	.853	Agreed
3	Most students depend of social media for religious information	100	262	2.62	.749	Agreed
4	students prefer to use social media to attending religious meeting	100	312	3.12	.556	Agreed

5	Getting information about religious activities is easier with social media	100	328	3.28	.668	Agreed
6	Social media platforms often expose me to diverse religious ideas	100	400	4.00	.000	Agreed
7	Student's interpersonal relationship is influenced by social media	100	300	3.00	.000	Agreed
8	Students perception of religious practice are influenced with the use of social media	100	400	4.00	.000	Agreed
9	Social media has made me question or doubt my religious beliefs.	100	300	3.00	.000	Agreed
10	Through social media I sometime question the reality of God	100	300	3.00	.000	Agreed

From Table 2, it was discovered from the analysis in item 1, that the respondent agreed that Students hold on to religious views they get from social media with a mean of 2.98. In item 2, it was found that the respondents agreed that Students hold meetings related to religious activities through social media with a mean of 2.60. In item 3, it was found that the respondents agreed that Most students depend of social media for religious information with a mean of 2.62. In item 4, respondents also agreed that students prefer to use social media to attending religious meeting with a mean response of 3.12. It was discovered in item 5, that respondents agreed that Getting information about religious activities is easier with social media

with a mean response of 3.28. in items five, respondents agreed that Social media platforms often expose them to diverse religious ideas with a mean response of 4.00. In item six, responses shoed that respondents agreed that Student’s interpersonal relationship is influenced by social media with a mean rating of 3.00. all other items were rated as agreed by the respondents. In conclusion, agreed based on the responses that social media influence religious consciousness among university to a large extent

**Research Question 3:** What extent has technology influence religious consciousness among university?

**Table 5:** Extent technology influence religious consciousness among university

S/N	Influence of Technology on Religious Consciousness	N	Score	Mean (x)	(S.D)	Remark
1	Students learning is enhanced through technology use	100	352	3.52	.577	Agreed
2	Teleconferencing is made possible through technology	100	336	3.36	.659	Agreed
3	Digital transmission of information is made possible through technology	100	274	2.74	.939	Agreed
4	Technology has enhanced the transmission of information through email	100	400	4.00	.000	Agreed
5	Students share religious messages through the use of the internet	100	300	3.00	.000	Agreed

6	Technology has provided easy access to religious teachings	100	300	3.00	.000	Agreed
7	Religious teachings I receive through technology strengthening my religious consciousness.	100	284	2.84	.735	Agreed
8	Technology has led me to explore alternative spiritual practices,	100	300	3.00	.000	Agreed
9	The use of technology has caused some students to shift in their religious consciousness.	100	312	3.12	.556	Agreed
10	The use of technology has not changed my belief system	100	336	3.36	.659	Agreed

From Table 3, respondents rated the entire item as agreed with a mean rating ranging from 2.74 to 4.00. hence, it can be concluded based on this analysis that technology influence religious consciousness among university

### **Discussion of Findings**

Research question one showed that western culture and values influence the religious consciousness of university students this finding agrees with Benson (2017) who stated that Western culture places a strong emphasis on secular values and individualism, which may be causing Nigerian University students to be less religious. Students who are exposed

to Western ideas and viewpoints may become more inclined to value material success and independence over religious piety. For instance, the pursuit of individual success and professional goals may take precedence over religious commitments, resulting in a decline in religious awareness among University students. University students in Nigeria who have been exposed to Western cultural values may view religion less objectively and more as a matter of personal preference. As a result, there may be less emphasis placed on religious commitment and less religious awareness

Research question two indicated that social media influence religious consciousness among university to a large extent. This is in agreement with Krasnova, Veltri & Günther, 2012). This increase in social media usage has greatly affected the lives of social media users in the way that they interact and socialize with others, attracting the attention of the researchers. Using social media allows people to interact and engage with family and friends, as well as meet new people from around over the world. Similarly, Vidyakala and Nithyakala (2016) stated that this explosion of social media use currently incorporates billions of people providing an enormous potential for creating change within society. Consequently, many people have

successfully used social media successfully as a tool to promote societal change, even within the context of religious causes

Research question three revealed that technology influence religious consciousness among university. This is in line with the position of Leah (2018) most university students and youth today can't imagine a world without technology and youth seem to be deeply interconnected today, where one harmful effect of technology is likely to affect a web of youth. Also, this finding agrees with Steinhart (2018) wrote exclusively about spirituality and technology, he stated that the two have an uneasy relationship. According to him, many people often think that technology and spirituality are opposed and that the more you're into technology, the less spiritual you become, even going further to think that technology is anti-spiritual and at the extreme, they think of technology as evil or dehumanizing.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### Summary

This study examined the fading effect of religious consciousness among university students in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the University of Benin. This study sought to find out the role of the university education in promoting religious consciousness among students, the extent which western culture and values influence the religious consciousness among university and the extent which social media influences religious consciousness among university. However, three research questions were raised and answered using questionnaires, these research questions include: The data collected were analyzed using percentage, mean and standard deviation. The findings from the research questions include that:

- Western culture and values influence the religious consciousness of university students
- Social media influence religious consciousness among university to a large extent.

- The advent and use of technology influence religious consciousness among university.

## **Conclusion**

This study focused on fading effect of religious consciousness among university students in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the University of Benin. The study shown that there is has been a high level of religious consciousness in Nigeria and Nigeria's educational system has also been significantly influenced by religion and its various activities. Although there has been a growing concern about the fading effect of religious consciousness among Nigeria university students, has been able to reveal that religion play a significant role in sharpening religious consciousness of undergraduates.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings the following recommendations were made:

- Religious instruction should be entrenched in the university curriculum. This is imperative as we assume that religion brings the fear of God and consequently that students who fear God would not

engage in unruly behaviour, and this would make for a peaceful atmosphere.

- University institutions should seek the support of the religious bodies on campus and the entire community members in dealing so as to be able to produce students who are not only sound academically but morally and spiritually
- Leaders in religious organizations on campus should be models of integrity they have the obligation of providing not only the essential materials needed but also the spiritual, emotional psychological and mental needs of the students within the university system.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS (DEF)  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN  
BENIN CITY**

Dear Respondents,

This study is designed to examine the fading effect of religious consciousness among university students in Nigeria using University of Benin as a case study. Please complete the structured questionnaire by ticking the relevant box or filling the blank spaces. If you have any question, please ask before you start. Provide the details below and then proceed to answer the questions. Please note that the information you are giving would be used for research purposes and would be treated with confidentiality.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Researcher

**Section A: Demographic Data**

Name of School.....

Gender: Male (  ) Female (  )

**SECTION B:**

S/N	Influence of Western Culture and Values on Religious Consciousness	SA	A	D	SD
1	Western culture has influence on our students				
2	most university students have preferences for western entertainment to religious activities				
3	Students see religion less accurate due to western influence				
4	Some students put less emphasis on religious				

	commitment due to western culture				
5	Most university students have adopted Western fashion trends,				
	<b>Influence of Social Media on Religious Consciousness</b>				
1	Students hold religious the views they get from social media				
2	Students hold meetings related to religious activities through social media				
3	Most students depend of social media for religious information				
4	students prefer to use social media to attending religious meeting				
5	Getting information about religious activities is easier with social media				
6	Social media platforms often expose me to diverse religious ideas				
7	Student's interpersonal relationship is influenced by social media				
8	Students perception of religious practice are influenced with the use of social media				
9	Social media has made me question or doubt my religious beliefs.				
10	Through I social media I sometime question the reality of God				
	<b>Influence of Technology on Religious Consciousness</b>				
1	Students learning in enhanced through technology use				
2	Teleconferencing is made possible through technology				
3	Digital transmission of information is made possible through technology				
4	Technology has enhanced the transmission of information through email				
5	Students share religious messages through the use of the internet				
6	Technology has provided easy access to religious teachings				

7	Religious teachings I receive through technology strengthening my religious consciousness.				
8	Technology has led me to explore alternative spiritual practices,				
9	The use of technology has caused some students to shift in their religious consciousness.				
10	The use of technology has not changed my belief system				

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