**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

**FACULTY OF VOCATION AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF**

**COMPUTER AND ROBOTICS EDUCATION**

**A TERM PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF**

**THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE COURSE GSP202**

**(ISSUES OF PEACE AND CONFLICT)**

**TOPIC:**

**RITUALISM AND THE QUEST FOR WEALTH**

**AMONG NIGERIA YOUTHS**

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**2017/245885**

**LECTURER:**

**MARCH, 2019**

**TITLE PAGE**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

TITLE PAGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2

TABLE OF CONTENTS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3

1. INTRODUCTION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4
2. LUST FOR MONEY AND YAHOO-PLUS MANIA IN NIGERIA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5
3. THE ORIGIN OF BLOOD MONEY IN NIGERIA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6
4. MONEY MAKING RITUALS AND SUPERSTITION IN NIGERIA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_7
5. WHY KILLINGS FOR RITUALS ARE ON THE INCREASE IN NIGERIA\_\_\_\_\_\_9
6. A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO CYBERCRIME IN NIGERIA: THE ‘YAHOO PLUS’ PHENOMENON \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_13
7. DANGERS OF RITUALISTIC TENDENCIES IN NIGERIA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_14
8. THE MENACE OF YAHOO BOYS IN NIGERIA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_17
9. CONCLUSION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_18

REFERENCES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_19

**Introduction**

This termpaper explores the relevance and adoption of spirituality means in cybercrime; the roles of spiritualists and ritualists; experiences of self-confessed youths that are involved in ‘yahoo yahoo’ ,’ yahoo plus’ activities and the future intentions of youths to engage in money ritual. This was with a view to providing a socio-cultural analysis of the influence of spirituality in cybercrime (‘yahoo yahoo’, ‘yahoo plus’) activities among Nigerian youths.

Vignette based focus group discussions were held with male and female youths (18-35 years), in-depth interviews with ‘yahoo yahoo’ youths and some spiritualists. Findings showed that spirituality attracts high cultural relevance in life achievements and the conduct of cybercrimes. Perceptions on youths’ involvement in cybercrime activities attracted mixed reactions. To the ‘Yahoo yahoo’ youths, they are playing a game, to other participants; ‘yahoo yahoo’ was a criminal act. Cybercrime among the youths have received the support of some spiritualists within a political economy that creates an enabling environment for cybercrimes and related activities (yahoo plus). A few participants indicated future interests in cybercrime if their economic conditions remain unchanged or worsen.

**Lust for Money and Yahoo-Plus Mania In Nigeria**

The rate at which the entertainment industry and musical celebrities in particular normalize Yahoo-Yahoo, Yahoo-Plus and drug addiction through various social platforms is becoming alarming. Almost every song now has content that hails “young Benzers” (youthful owners of millennium Mercedes Benz), physically stable takers of a cocktail of drugs and young people who can throw lavish parties or spray dollars endlessly at social events. Part of the lyrics of one of the musical hits in 2018 goes thus: “T’awon boys ba n’owo ope, wa sha ino wole… (Once Yahoo Boys have made it big, they must come in to gatherings big and smoky…)” For the records, Yahoo-Yahoo is Internet fraud for which Nigeria has become globally infamous. Yahoo-Plus is money ritual with human parts or blood, which is taking dangerous dimensions in an increasingly morally sick society.

Should I quickly add that such young Benzers are often either school dropouts, unemployed graduates or roadside hawkers, known for “double hustle” but whom, after moving closely with the “sooji” or “sharp pra-pra” or “shraproper” folk become stupendously wealthy overnight? How? Human parts, young women’s pants or some midnight blood sacrifices have been traded for sudden riches.

These musical acts, DJs and nightclub hype-men and the numerous mixtapes of songs, encourage and energize youths and make them believe only the strong-willed get rich before 21 and deserve all the “life enjoyment” that there is.

No wonder there has been a meteoric increase in the spate of female pants-stealing, disappearances of young ladies and children whose lifeless bodies litter covens and bushes, as well as proliferation of shrines for money-making rituals and arrests of ritual killers across the length and breadth of the country.

What needs to change? Our attitude to money and emphasis on lucre – or how much acquired – as the elixir of life. Nigerians at all levels, from the marketplaces, public offices to religious centers, worship money. We put too much of pressure on ourselves (public office holders, business tycoons, public figures, professors, family benefactors, etc) that once we reach the top of the ladder, so much is expected of us materially and financially, which tends to push to the elastic limits. These often manifest in stealing public money, inflating contract budgets, engaging in dirty deals or going into Internet fraud.

The latest get-rich-quick device is money ritual and the “lazy Nigerian youths” (apologies to President Buhari, who’s alleged to have used those words) are leading the pack in this new “lucrative” venture. The young envy the older generation of politicians who get extremely rich within a very short time at the expense of the teeming population of the depraved. Some of these “small boys” justify their use of “just one lady” for money by citing examples of public officers who sacrifice hundreds of lives through road or air accidents caused by inadequate funding of those social infrastructures on the platter of politicians’ personal greed.

Our lust for money is a dynamic of corruption. There is a need for attitudinal change. Do we often ask ourselves why we form the highest number of Africans who flee abroad to settle? One pound equals to plenty of naira at home? One case of drug peddling fetches hundreds of millions at once. Our people prize money ahead of peace of mind.

Our attitude towards money must change. Money is good. I love it too. But we must have a decent approach to getting it and have a sense of content. Whatever is enough is enough. Not everyone can be a Dangote.

Before the musicians who madly celebrate money and encourage money rituals can be stopped, let those in government also be shining examples of responsible people. We have monetized everything in Nigeria, including our votes. We trade just anything for cash or food, which the elected official is willing to provide so long as we are ready to sell our conscience. Billions are thrown around before and during elections and impressionable youths, including the artistes assume that the only source of happiness or measure of success is owning plenty of money, no matter the source of it. Once the politicians are done taming themselves, they can then have the moral fortitude to place restrictions on content in songs, nightclubs and social arenas where young people converge.

**The Origin of Blood Money in Nigeria**

The early Pagans practiced and worshiped their gods in such a way that you must sacrifice something to be able to prosper. This means that if they wanted to go to war and needed an assurance that they would be successful, they would offer a sacrifice to their gods to enable them to be victorious.

That is the same thing that is being replicated now. In the early period of human existence, most people would offer a sacrifice – which was mostly human sacrifice to appease the gods that were in reality then. They were doing it for any of the following reasons;

* To make rainfall
* To improve their farmlands/crop products
* They would offer a sacrifice if they wanted to be victorious in war
* To appease the gods of the lands generally

The introduction of missionaries in Nigeria was now able to stop the barbaric practices – at least for that period. But along the line, the method was re-introduced again, but differently. The main aim of the latest practice now was primarily “to make money.” This was now given a name “Blood Money.”

*So what does blood money mean?*

Blood money means merely the money that was gotten as a result of blood sacrifice. If you want to make blood money in Nigeria, you must involve the use of blood. Unfortunately, animal blood no longer works, so it must be that of a human being.

**Money Making Rituals and Superstition in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, the belief in ritual money is very strong and widespread. The belief is entertained both by the educated and the non-educated, by people of all faiths, and by those who indulge in ritual killing and sacrifice of human beings and those who do not.

Modern education in science and logic has not succeeded in eradicating the belief. The existence of relevant laws has not stopped people from carrying out money-making rituals. The belief in ritual money, often seen as self evident has driven people across the country to kidnap, murder and mutilate other human beings including their family members. Children have targeted and murdered their parents and grandparents for rituals. Parents, as in this case, have used their children or housemaids for ritual purposes.

What happens is that people who desperately want to get rich consult a local medicine man or witchdoctor. The charlatan then directs the client to procure, among other things, some human body parts; sometimes the head, private organs, the liver or breast, for a ritual sacrifice. Sometimes witchdoctors ask for the human embryo or the body part of a particular family member-one’s father, mother, sister or child- for sacrifice.

When ritualists cannot kill by themselves they commission others to do so on their behalf. In some situations where those commissioned cannot kill, they go to cemeteries and dig up bodies and use their body parts. In November, more than 100 bodies were desecrated in a cemetery in Porto Novo in the republic of Benin. According to the report, “The grave robbers cut the heads off the bodies and also stole some internal organs”.

The witchdoctors use the body parts to perform some sacrifice or to prepare charms, concoctions or magical substance that will purported make the client rich or make him experience a financial breakthrough. The time has come for Nigerians to take a critical look at money-making rituals and the belief in ritual wealth. The practice of ritual killing and the money-making rituals are based on deep-seated superstitions which the structures and institutions in our society have refused to challenge and debunk. Until these irrational beliefs are dispelled, the savage act of ritual murder will not stop. The prosecution of ritualists will only drive the practice underground as is often the case. Prosecution should go with education and public enlightenment.

How long are we going to keep entertaining the belief in ritual money based on hearsay? Nigerians need to be supplied with proof and hard evidence for ritual wealth. This is because the belief is sending many people to their graves and others to jail. The belief is turning children against their parents and parents against their children. There is an urgent need for proactive measures to combat this cultural scourge. Sadly the bloody act of ritual murder continues.

The irrational belief persists. And the bogus claims by witch doctors, most of whom are desperately poor and miserable, that they have the power to make people rich through magic and ritual sacrifice continue to motivate people to commit criminal and atrocious acts. No doubt those who murder conspire to murder or kidnap for money rituals or for any purpose at all should be arrested and prosecuted. But more importantly, there is a need to put in place a public education and enlightenment campaign to reorient the mentality of the people. Ritual murder starts in the mind and any initiative to stop it must involve programs to change the mindset.

The belief in ritual money is a deep seated cultural belief and traditional belief particularly when they are rooted in the supernatural die hard. But they die anyway. In this case, there is needed to take measures to ensure that the belief in ritual money dies and that the practice of money-making rituals stops.

Nigerians need to be educated to know that ritual money is a hoax. That money-making ritual is a sham. Those witch doctors who claim to have powers to perform money- making rituals are charlatans. Nigerians need to understand that no ritual sacrifice of anything or anybody; a human being, an animal or insect; can make anybody rich. No charm prepared with any human or animal body part can give one a financial breakthrough. In fact Nigerians need to be told that charms are practically useless and lack the potency of protecting people or enhancing their fortune as widely believed.

Before any Nigerian contemplates going to a witchdoctor for money rituals, he or she should first ask, why is the witch doctor not rich himself? If he can make me rich why can’t he make himself or his friend or family member rich? If the ritual money is good for me why is it not good for him, for his friends and family members? At home, in market places, in schools, colleges and universities, people need to be told that getting rich or becoming wealthy has nothing to do with ritual sacrifice or the use of charms. That the money ritual narrative of a human head vomiting volumes of cash in the bedrooms of rich people is a myth and has no basis in common sense or in reality. That getting rich is a factor of education, hard work, acquiring skills, discovering and developing one’s talent, excelling in one’s profession and other common sensical and confirmable means of generating income.

**Why Killings for Rituals are on the Increase in Nigeria**

The spate of killings for ritual purposes is gradually assuming an alarming rate in Nigeria with little or no effort by concerned government agencies to checkmate the trend.

One would have expected such pseudoscience acts to be a thing of the past going by increase in religious activities and in civilization. But murdering people to appease the deities appears to be on the increase.

These dastardly acts are carried out in a 21st century, when other countries of the world are experimenting and advancing in technology.

It is also shocking to know that some acclaimed high and mighty indulge in ritual killings. For instance, some politicians and government officials have been accused by arrested suspects and herbalists who allege that they use human beings for rituals in order to sustain their affluence as well as remain in positions of power.

Investigations revealed that cases of ritual killings and disappearance of persons are usually high whenever elections are around the corner.

Just last week, this barbaric act assumed a cannibalistic dimension following the arrest of a suspected kidnapper alleged to have killed one of his victims and used his intestines to prepare pepper soup.

The suspect, Roland Peter, according to the Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Zaki Ahmed, abducted his victim from his house on August 2017, adding that the suspect was at the verge of eating pepper soup and yam porridge when the police swooped on him and some accomplices.

These vampires hide under different covers to get their victims. For some, they kidnap their victims from various points , while others who pretend to be commercial bus drivers, pick unsuspecting commuters at bus-stop only to take them to their slaughter slabs to carry out what they know how to do best.

**Religious Leaders also Involved**

One would have expected such primitive acts to be going down, going by the increasing religious groups in the country. Regrettably, some leaders of religious have been caught in the act. But investigations have shown that many evil men only use religion as a cover up. They are never true religious leaders. One of the ready cases that comes to mind was that of the arrest of a Pastor who allegedly killed a seven-year-old boy and buried his head where the church’s alter was mounted. This action was to ensure the influx of members into the church located at Odokekere/ Odogunyan in Ikorodu area of Lagos state. Elsewhere in Edo state and Ogun states, some pastors were also arrested over similar acts.

Few months ago, an unidentified woman who left her abode in Sango Otta area of Ogun in search of spiritual cleansing at the place of a Muslim cleric popularly called Alfa, in Badagry area of Lagos, ended up being victim of ritual killing.

A 61-year-old landlord, Toafeek Hassan, who confessed to have slaughtered the woman, was found with her fresh human head and other body parts which were to be used to prepare concoction by the alfa.

Investigation shows that female parts are more in demand than their male counterparts. This is because of what was described as the potency of some parts like the breasts and lower private parts in money rituals and other purposes by herbalists and occult groups.

One of the herbalists, who spoke with Vanguard at the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department, SCIID, Oseni Bello, admitted to be preparing concoction with human body parts but said he was not involved in the killings. Oseni disclosed that some of the rituals were done to elongate lives. He added that the heart was used to prepare concoction for boldness and fear.

He stated further that virgins and babies on the other hand, were used by some politicians and government officials for ritual purposes as their blood is said to be used to elongate the user’s life span as well as fortify them against spiritual attacks. These are some of the reasons, he said, killings for rituals are on the increase.

A particular case in mind was that of a South-West politician alleged to have been caught by his driver with a dissected day-old baby whose blood he was drinking. The incident as reported two years ago, occurred inside a bush, while the driver was taking his boss (names withheld) to a function. Half way into the journey, the politician was said to have ordered his driver to pull over.

He thereafter, alighted and headed for a bush with a promise to be back. Having waited without any sight of his boss, the ignorant and curious driver reportedly went in search for him, only to meet him stark naked and pouring the blood of a dissected baby into his mouth. Barely two weeks later, the driver reportedly died under mysterious circumstance.

The event that occurred before his death was related by a Pastor friend whom the deceased confided in before his demise. The lust for money and power drives these people into ritual killings.

While some kill to achieve this unfathomable dream, others resort to digging graves and removing needed human parts for ritual purpose. Saturday Vanguard scooped that most guards at cemeteries connive with agents to sell human parts. It was learnt that if a fresh human head is needed, an agent will contact some cemetery workers ahead.

In this case, the cemetery official will be on the lookout for fresh dead bodies, preferably those of Muslims who are usually buried within 24 hours after death. Immediately the body is interred, they exhume the body at night, cut off the needed parts and place the body back in the grave.

Those who patronize cemetery officials are usually herbalists, herbal traders and even prominent Nigerians who usually use middle men. Surprisingly, human parts are sold in some markets in Nigeria. We gathered that a fresh human head could go for N60,000 and above, while a skull is sold for N20,000. Fresh legs are sold for N30,000 each while a decomposed leg is sold for N20,000. A fresh finger is sold for N5,000 each while the decomposed is sold for 3,000. Fresh intestines are sold for N20,000 while dry ones are sold for N5000. Pieces of fresh bones are sold for N2,000 and above.

Reacting to the upsurge, the president, Association of Industrial Security and Safety Operators of Nigeria , AISSON Dr. Ona. Ekhomu called on the Nigeria Police to set up Special Ritual Murder Squads in various State Commands to focus on the investigation, detection, arrest and prosecution of ritual killers.

He said that the high incidence of serial ritual killings demands an urgent action at the level of the police high command.

According to the first chartered security professional in West Africa, citizens were rapidly losing faith in the ability of the police agency to detect and punish ritual killers. This, he said was responsible for the increase in lynching of suspects as members of the public resort to jungle justice to get redress for the heinous murders.

Said he: “The conscience of Nigerians should be troubled by reports of recent ritual murders including that of one-year-old Success lme in Calabar whose heart was ripped out from her small body for ritual purposes and was discovered in a Church along with other items for occult rituals. There is also the case of Pastor Samuel Okpara in Ahoada East LGA of Imo State who was kidnapped, killed and cannibalized by ritualists. The pastor was reportedly beheaded and his liver and intestines used for pepper soup and plantain porridge. What a horrific occurrence?”

He also decried the excesses of the Baddoo murder cult in Ikorodu Lagos State and other parts of the country, saying it was a direct challenge to the Police.

Economic recession in the land is not a license to commit ritual murder. Impunity encourages ritualists to commit murders because they believe they will not be apprehended or punished.

Nigerians should be careful with keeping late night because if a vehicle breaks down one could fall victim of kidnap by ritualists. Commuters should always write down the identification markings of public conveyance vehicles which they enter and make phone calls to loved ones to pass on the information. Because ritual murderers always wish to be unidentified. They want to kill people, but don’t wish to be apprehended. Once information about them has been passed on to someone else, it becomes difficult for them to do evil”.

Nigerians should also assess public transport vehicles before boarding in order not to board the “wrong bus. Likewise, women are advised to carry whistles on them in order to raise an alarm if there is an attempt to abduct them”.

On his part, the National Coordinator, Network on Police Reform in Nigeria, NOPRIN Mr Okechukwu Nwanguma, attributed the rise in cases of killing for ritual to collapse in moral values

“It is also caused by, ignorance and superstition, the inordinate quest and pursuit of quick wealth and lack of effective punishment system. In a way, poverty and unemployment may also be a risk factor. If Nigerians have equal opportunities to earn income in legitimate ways, there will definitely be reduction in such abominable crimes like humans killing fellow humans for ritual.”

Also baring his opinion on the matter, Treasurer of the Action Democratic Party, Cross River State Chapter, Offiong Okon, in a recent interview, advised that: “Before a church is established, government should carry out investigation before license is granted because many of the church leaders and founders are ritualists, acting in the capacity of being Pastors.”

“Government should investigate the Pastors and checkmate their activities because what they do under the cover of being a religious leader.”

**A Spiritual Dimension to Cybercrime in Nigeria: The ‘Yahoo Plus’ Phenomenon**

The spiritual dimension to cybercrime is a paradigmatic shift from the popular yahoo-yahoo which relies solely on Internet dexterity to victimize. However, the blending of the spiritual to victimize in cyberspace reveals the innovative capabilities of cybercriminals in this study area. Anticipated social strain may influence the participation of university students in cybercrime. This is because the university environment is not totally isolated from the socio-economic milieu of Nigerian society. Since materialism seems to be cherished within Nigerian society, young people appear to have imbibed this social value by designing strategies of accomplishing the set task. Repressed in the physical space, yahoo boys migrate to the cyberspace to perpetrate criminality.

The delayed success rates in yahoo-yahoo, the untiring clampdown of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on cybercriminals, group rivalry and the activities of the media in enlightening the public accounted for the search for a more speedy way of increasing cybercrime victimization. The frustrated yahoo boys innovated and imported the spiritual elements into cyber crime leading to the emergence of yahoo plus. This group relies on the spiritual capital of herbalists, fetish pastors and Alfas. Yahoo plus fraudsters approach fetish pastors, alfas, and herbalists for success-promoting charms.

Charms such as afose (do as I say), oruka-ere (charmed rings), ijapa (tortoise), oseawure (success-boosting soap), atona (pathfinder) are used along with Internet surfing to defraud victims.

The consequences of indulging in yahoo plus are inimical to the growth of Nigerian society. The youths involved are more susceptible to different forms of crime when the voodoo fails. A maxim among the Yoruba recognizes the fact that charms may guarantee success temporarily, but eternal success can only be sustained by destiny. This also means that the charms can boomerang. Some of the unintended consequences of forcing wealth via invocation of spiritual elements are untimely death, madness and deformation.

An assured future employment will encourage commitment to learning and reduce association with deviant peers. Cyber spiritualism portends danger for a developing country like Nigeria. It leads to image battering which impedes development. A way out of this social ill is a genuine restructuring of the social values of Nigerian society. This should encompass adequate reward for service, encouragement of meritocracy, delivery of justice in corruption, abhorrence of ritualism in the socio-political sphere and social welfarism to meet the yearnings of the vulnerable populace. There is need for a large scale study to investigate the consequences of this approach on the lives of the perpetrators.

**Dangers of Ritualistic Tendencies in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, Yahoo boys are known to be those young men who are usually with a laptop that use the power of the internet to connect to innocent people both home and abroad and look for ways to dupe them of their money. The yahoo boys have turned this illegal work to a profession and even call their victims, these innocent victims, their “clients”.

Just a quick Google search will enlighten whoever is interested in being one on how to be or start the Yahoo Boy in Nigeria profession.

The Nigerian law enforcement agencies are usually after these guys every time. Some innocent guys have been harassed and accused of being Yahoo boys in Nigeria just because they were seen walking with a laptop in a public place. But sadly, due to the sad economic situation of the country, many young boys and men see no other option than to go into the Yahoo boy business, which is sad in its own self. It seems the bad economy in the country is a main causative agent.

*What is Yahoo Plus in Nigeria?*

Yahoo plus is like advanced Yahoo scam. It is the version of the Yahoo scam that has voodoo or help from the spiritual realm in it. This is why it is called a yahoo “plus”. The plus in it means something extra, something additional to the original thing. Yahoo plus is like advanced Yahoo – Yahoo.

Some Yahoo plus guys use voodoo on their unsuspecting victim and then use their star or destiny for rituals. In this case, they don’t even collect any money. Some of them also use voodoo to hypnotize their victims. They claim to do this because the ordinary Yahoo doesn’t work and pay well again so they now employ the use of voodoo to trap their victims by force.

The original Yahoo method is not working again because there has been a lot of awareness lately about the existence of Yahoo boys and their frauds, so people have become cautious and rarely fall for such scams. So these Yahoo boys have gone looking for more effective methods and they have decided that they will employ voodoo.

Those that don’t use voodoo, ask for prayer support from their religious leaders to be able to successfully scam their victims. The most common powers they prefer to use is the herbalist’s power. These herbalists prepare different types of concoctions for them to use whether by eating or wearing, some Yahoo boys have confessed that some herbalists they consulted used human body parts in making some of these concoctions.

It is very easy to know the people who engage in these fraudulent Yahoo plus activities. Their lifestyles most times tend to speak it. They spend the money they extort from people exorbitantly and without caution, flaunting their wealth, they spend almost all of their money at night clubs, bars and on girls. And also most times, the source of their riches cannot be traced to any source. Anybody can engage in Yahoo plus irrespective of gender so it would be very smart of you to be wary of them and be more cautious.

Yahoo Yahoo (internet fraud) has become rampant among Nigerian youths and many of these fraudsters now engage in rituals for their illegitimate business to boom. Yahoo boys who engage in rituals are called Yahoo plus – and these group of fraudsters can been seen in every nook and cranny of the country. They do various evils and ills in order to make money and amongst them are:

1. **Eating Human Faeces:** Yahoo plus eat faeces with bread in form of a sandwich. It was reported that a lady once overheard her ex-boyfriend in a conversation with a friend who listened to him narrate his experience while eating the mixture which is believed to be one of the rites he needed to fulfill in a quest for money.

2. **Barking once in a month as part of money ritual:** They type of ritual some of them do requires them to bark like a dog. There is a video of a Yahoo boy who was barking like a dog while his friends watched and laughed at him.In the background, his friends cheered him up, saying “owo de” which means “Money has arrived”.

3. **‘Oshole’, the power of compulsion:** This is a type of ritual that empowers a Yahoo plus to command his victim, otherwise known as ‘client’, to do whatever he wants. The ‘client’ cannot decline whatever he or she is asked to do, and these fraudsters use this type of ritual to defraud them of a lot of money.

4. **Wiping a lady’s private part with towel after she has been slept with:** Yahoo plus also make use of females in the quest for money, by wiping moisture from a woman’s part after she has been slept with. The material is then used in a ritual. There is a lot that could happen to any lady who falls victim of this evil act by Yahoo plus.

5. **Killing one’s nephew for money rituals:** Yahoo boys who engage in rituals for the purpose of making money could be told to bring forth his nephew for the ritual. An image of one Tunde Owolabi, who was captured in handcuffs as he crouched beside the corpse of a little boy reportedly 7 years old, was shared by Odueko Olumide John.

6. **Selling of pants and bras of girls:** Yahoo boys who engage in rituals for the purpose of making money could be told to bring female pants and bras for the ritual thereby making the girls almost useless for life except for divine intervention.

This is the extent Yahoo boys go in order to become wealthy. The suspects were arrested for various offences bordering on cyber crimes and money laundering; and the raid was carried out following intelligence reports concerning their flamboyant lifestyle. During the operation, exotic cars and charms were recovered.

The EFCC zonal head for Lagos, Akanninyene Ezima, said: “It is to checkmate the activities of these undisciplined elements who want to reap where they did not sow. By this action, we are also sending a red alert to the so-called yahoo-yahoo boys that engaging in fraudulent deeds does not pay.”

**The Menace of Yahoo Boys In Nigeria**

Yahoo boys have caused lots of problems in the society both in Nigeria and abroad. They have caused lots of havoc that might be very hard to repair. Some of the problems they have caused include:

**1. Damage to National Image:** Because of the frequency of fraudulence and duping that originates from Nigeria, other foreigners now see Nigeria and Nigerians in a negative light. The foreigners will tend to believe that all Nigerians swindle and dupe people because the few Nigerians and maybe the only Nigerian they have ever met happens to be a Yahoo boy that duped them greatly. These foreigners will tell their friends of their ordeal and then more people will start to believe that Nigerians are fraudsters.

**2. Poor treatment of Nigerians in foreign countries:** Because there is already national image of the country, this will lead these foreigners to treat any Nigerian they meet, whether good or bad, in a poor way. This is totally normal and natural. In some countries, Nigerians have complained of the ill treatment they received at the airport of these countries. They have been searched and screened more vigorously than any other country’s citizens. Making one think that Nigerians are undesirable but it is all due to the activities of these Yahoo boys. They have caused the problem that other innocent and moral Nigerians be treated poorly in other countries due to bad representation. Some online stores abroad don’t even allow Nigerians to shop from their sites.

**3. Teaching the younger generation to obtain money illegally:** These boys don’t teach the younger ones coming after them the right things. If they happen to have younger ones who look up to them, they might also follow the foot steps of these Yahoo boys. They might want to be as rich as their elder ones and would happily go into the business they are doing without considering its consequences. If not curbed, this keeps spreading round the generations like that.

**4. Irrational spending and flaunting:** These Yahoo boys are widely known for spending money without remorse. And this is only normal since they did not work for the money but extorted it out of people. Yahoo boys are usually depicted as going to night clubs and bars at night to spend money lavishly on drinks and girls and also they have a tendency to flaunt their riches. They ride in expensive cars, wear designer clothes and watches and flaunt them all both online and in real life. But they also quickly spend all the money they earn hence having nothing left. They unreasonably encourage irrational spending.

**5. Putting other people in distress:** When these Yahoo boys dupe people, they cause these people the menace of pain, worry and distress. They tactfully extort these people’s hard earned money from them which is very cruel.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, we argued that a holistic approach grounded in the cultural system would be more effective in re-orientating and empowering the youths to positively utilizes their internet skills. Thus, curbing cybercrimes would require a process that would not rely exclusively on legal and policing frameworks.

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