

Room-Mates Conflicts in Nigerian Universities: Causes and Management Strategies

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KEYWORDS Room-Mates Conflict. Management Strategies. Federal Universities. State Universities. Private Universities. Nigeria

ABSTRACT It is axiomatic that the ability to manage conflict among roommates in universities in Nigeria with the right strategies will increase their capacity to relate to others and bring about positive change in cooperative attitude. This study was therefore designed to assess the causes and various strategies for managing roommate conflicts in Universities in Nigeria. A total of 1520 students made up of 724 from Federal owned Universities, 700 from State owned Universities, and 96 students from Private owned Universities were surveyed with a structured questionnaire. Data obtained were analyzed with mean score rating of 2.55. Results showed that smoking cigarettes in the room, use of roommate's property, gossiping a fellow roommate, noise-making, cooking inside the room, unacceptable prayers, members of different cults with differing interests, are some of the likely causes of conflict among roommates. Others are squatting friends, having an affair with a roommate's lovers, refusal to clean the room, competition in the use of electrical appliances, and refusal to settle common bills. On management strategies, encouraging communication among conflicting roommates, bringing together roommates to solve problems, using diplomacy to suppress conflicts, could ensure healthy roommate relationship. It was also observed that roommate conflicts are similar in Federal, State and Private owned Universities. It was recommended that special training could be organized for roommates in Nigeria Universities.