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# LIFE-STYLE AND UNIVERSITY TYPE AS "PREDISPOSERS" TO STRESS AMONG UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: Objectives of the study were to investigate lecturers' life-style and university ownership variables, and stress experiences accompanying the variables. Participants (110) were sampled using incidental and cluster techniques: Federal University (46), State University (42), and Private University (22), Professors (12), Associate Professors (9), Senior Lecturers (30), Lecturer 1 (24), Lecturer 2 (14), and Assistant Lecturers (21) of cross-sectional and factorial designs, with multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA) statistics. Data were collected using valid/reliable life-style, and stress experience inventories of 5-points Likert measurements respectively. Findings were: Life-style significantly predisposed lecturers to stress; life-style significantly predisposed lecturers to stress arising from relationship with colleagues, research stress, and teaching task stress; combination of life-style and university type significantly contributed to lecturers' stress experiences; finally, variations in the stress were caused by work environment stressors. Recommendations were for lecturers to adopt healthy life-style, while university work environment be improved.

**KEY WORDS:** life-style, university-type, academics/lecturers, stress, Anambra-state, Nigeria

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## INTRODUCTION

In Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria, studies seem scanty on stress experiences among university academics. Studies seem direr on the roles that the academics' life-style and university type play in stress experiences of lecturers. In Nigeria, there are three categories of university namely the Federal government-owned, State government-owned, and privately owned universities. Observations showed that perception variations exist for the three categories of university on their functional, performance, and organizational effectiveness. There are also variations in the workload and conditions of employment for the three categories of university. These functional dynamics among the three categories of universities, in addition to their lecturers' life-styles could be the predisposing factors to the academics' stress experiences. Often, emphasis is placed on the impression management and development of the institutions (Anolu & Ofeimu, 2019). Little or no attention is paid to stress challenges of the university academics. Factors that predispose university academics to stress could be social/personal like their life-style, or organizational like the university system. Hence, this study investigated lifestyle and university type as stress "predisposers" among university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria.

## **Statement of the Problems**

Many academics who looked healthy had slumped and died unprepared. Unknown to many university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria, stress could be among their major health challenges. The university academics' stress experiences could arise from their life-style (Oketch-Oboth & Okunya, 2018), as well as the nature/type of university (associated with system, workload and conditions of employment). The three types of university, namely Federal government-owned, State government-owned, and privately-owned universities are of interest in the study. Academics are employed by universities to teach, research, and carry out community development. To achieve these goals, a modicum of stress is necessary. Nonetheless, severe stress is very unhealthy and counterproductive for academics (Akinmayowa, & Kadiri 2018). In Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria, university academics' lifestyle and type of university could be social and organizational "predisposers" to stress, which the academics are ignorant of. Curiously, the life-style of the academics, and variations in the university type (which could reflect in the system, workload and conditions of employment) could have contributory influence on the stress experiences of the academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria. These phenomena were therefore investigated in the study.

# **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1. To investigate life-style as an influencer of stress experience among university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria.
- 2. To ascertain whether university type is a "predisposer" of stress experience among university academics.

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# **Research Questions**

The following are the research questions for this study.

- 1. To what degree does life-style influence stress among university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria?
- 2. In what way does university type predisposes university academics to stress experience?

# Significance of the Study

Below are the significance of the study.

# **Specific significance**

- 1. The study will highlight life-style as an influencer of stress among university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria.
- 2. The study will bring to limelight whether university type is a "predisposer" of stress for university academics.

# **General Significance**

- 1. The management of learning institutions will benefit from the study as it provides insight on the factors that predispose academics to stress with particular reference to Nigeria.
- 2. The findings will help academic staff to have better understanding of the reasons and sources of their academic stress, manage the stress, avoid them where possible, and evolve more pragmatic ways of dealing with stress.
- 3. Knowledge from the study is beneficial to practitioners of human resource management in handling organizational stress from life-style perspective of employees.
- 4. Society at large, other organizations and individuals will also benefit from the study. Stress is a universal phenomenon that does not discriminate the type of organization or individual.

# **Operational Definition of Terms**

<u>Life-style</u>: This is university academics' life pattern or health attitude, measured with life-style inventory by Momayyezi, Fallahzadeh and Momayyezi (2015).

<u>University types</u>: These are the Federal government-owned, State government-owned, and private owned universities in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria.

<u>Stress</u>: This is the perception, response and attitude to stress inducing stimuli associated with university academics' work measured at levels of stress with stress scale by Shabana, Singhal, Siddique and Agarwal (2017).

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#### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **Theoretical Review**

The theoretical review provides the background idea for the study. The theories are examined as follows:

# On Life-Style

This is a person's basic character that impacts on the individual's decision-making, choices, and actions. Life-style can predispose an individual to habits that are stress-inducing. The background theory of life-style examined in the study is the health belief theory.

Health Belief Theory (HBT) by Rosenstock (Rosenstock, Stretcher & Becker 1988): The HBT theory originated in the 1950's based on the work of Rosenstock. It was developed to explain why people engage in certain behaviours as well as the implications/consequences of the behaviour. This theory contends that the decision to adopt a particular life-style depends on the perceived benefits and barriers related to the implementation of the behaviour (Rosenstock, Strecher & Becker 1988). It is the view of the health belief theory that individuals embrace life-style they believe offers them perceived living value. This perceived living value may be misconstrued that they become sources of problem in the person's life, such as inducing stress. University lecturers in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria, cannot be said to be immuned from misconstrued life-style that induces stress.

## On Stress

Stress can be healthy sometimes. But prolonged stress is detrimental to heath. Hence, stress should be constructively managed. Rational theory is adopted as the background theory on stress review.

Relational Theory by Lazarus and Folkman (1984): In his theory, Lazarus regards stress as a relational concept. Stress is not defined as a specific kind of external stimulation or a specific pattern of physiological, behavioural, or a subjective reactions. Instead, stress is reviewed as a relationship between individuals and their environment. Psychological stress involves relationship with the environment that an individual appraises as significant for the person's well-being, in which the demands exceed available coping resources. In rational theory, cognitive appraisal and coping strategies are influencers of stress. This concept is based on the idea that stress processes are dependent on actual expectancies that persons manifest with regard to the significance and outcome of a specific encounter. This concept is necessary in explaining individual differences in quality, intensity, and duration of an elicited stress in environments that are objectively equal for different individuals. Some of the most important personal factors that could be stress "predisposers" for university academics are motivation, dispositions, goals, values and generalized expectancies.

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## **EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

# On Life-Style

Babatunde (2017) examined effects of lifestyle on academic achievement of 720 adolescents. Result showed that three independent variables were found to have significant relative predictions on students' achievement thus: Health Education,  $\beta = -0.097$ , t (715) = 2.102, p<0.05, Risk Behaviour,  $\beta = 0.011$ , t (715) = 0.241, p<0.05 and Value for good Health,  $\beta = -$ 0.138, t (715), = 3.843, p<0.05. The same scenario could also play out for university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria. Shehu, Onasanya, Onigbinde, Ogunsakin, and Baba (2013) examined effort to ensure stress free academic society that would boost staff productivity and longevity. They studied the University of Ilorin's (UniIlorin), Nigeria, investment on lifestyle, fitness and health promotion initiatives. The result indicated a significant hyperthyroid and underutilization of multi-million naira fitness equipment procured for staff and students. It also revealed low turn-out at the monthly Unilorin walk-fitness programme for staff and students of the university. Anjali (2017) studied barriers in adopting a healthy lifestyle among college youths. This is because obesity, a preventable chronic disease, is becoming a serious health problem in all age groups due to the indulgence in a sedentary lifestyle. Findings showed that over-nutrition in urban population (12.8%), improvement in socioeconomic status (SES) of rural areas (4%), over-nutrition among middle SES (65%), followed by high SES (33.2%), and low SES (1.8%) life-style patterns contributed to obesity incidence.

## On Stress

Sultana (2012) carried out a study on the nature and impact of teacher stress in Pakistan. The data analysis highlighted the sources of teacher stress as arising from "inside-school" and the "outside-school" sources of stress. Yusoff (2013) carried out a study on job stress, performance and emotional intelligence in academia. The study sampled out 65 faculty members from two universities in Pakistan including one public and other private sector university. Data was collected using questionnaire, and was analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. It was found that a negative relationship existed between job stress and performance, whereas a strong positive relationship existed between emotional intelligence and job performance.

# **Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses were raised for this study

- 1. Life-style will not have significant influence on stress experience of university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria.
- 2. University type will not be a significant "predisposer" of stress experience among university academics.

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## **METHOD**

**Participants**: A sample of 110 university academics in a Federal government-owned, State government-owned, and private-owned universities were randomly sampled as the participants for the study. Participants' mean age and standard deviation were 55.3 and 9.16 respectively. Cluster and incidental sampling techniques were adopted to sample participants for the study. The participants were sampled from the cluster distributions as follows: Federal University (46), State University (42), and Private University (22), Professors (12), Associate Professors (9), Senior Lecturers (30), Lecturer 1 (24), Lecturer 2 (14), and Assistant Lecturers (21). The eligibility of participating in the study was that the participants would be a university academics within the selected Universities in Anambra State.

Instruments: The instruments used in the study were the life-style inventory, and stress scale inventory. The life-style inventory was developed by Momayyezi, Fallahzadeh and Momayyezi (2015), while the stress scale was developed by Shabana, Singhal, Siddique and Agarwal (2017). The psychometric properties of the life-style inventory are Guttman Lambda reliability test of .93 and Split-half reliability test value of .74. Life-style reliability test revealed that the Cronbach alpha result surpassed the threshold value of .64 by Momayyezi, Fallahzadeh and Momayyezi (2015). Divergent validation exercise was conducted for the life-style inventory using the extravagant life-style scale. The dissimilarity matrix showed coefficient of .72. Furthermore, spilt-half reliability test for stress inventory showed .72, parallel reliability of .78, and Cronbach Alpha Reliability of .76. Again, the stress inventory was given discriminant validity using the extravagant lifestyle with the coefficient of .74. Studies by Byrd (2016) and Onifade and Odedeyi, (2011) have found that extravagant lifestyle has divergent relationship with life-style, while at the same time discriminate against stress respectively.

**Procedures:** Each instrument contained preliminary researcher's self-introduction, confidentiality assurance, and consent requirements. Only one Federal government-owned and State government-owned universities are in Anambra State, and they were used for the study. Simple random sampling was used to select one out of the three private-owned universities in the Anambra State. Participants were sampled from clusters that made up the population based on availability and willingness to participate in the study. The researcher motivated the participants to respond to the instrument by providing an incentive (biro) for each of them. The researcher gave out the questionnaires to those respondents who indicated interest to participate. The participants were visited in their workplaces. A total of 168 questionnaire copies were administered but only 110 copies were collected back and used for the study. The collected data were analyzed using the version 23 of the SPSS.

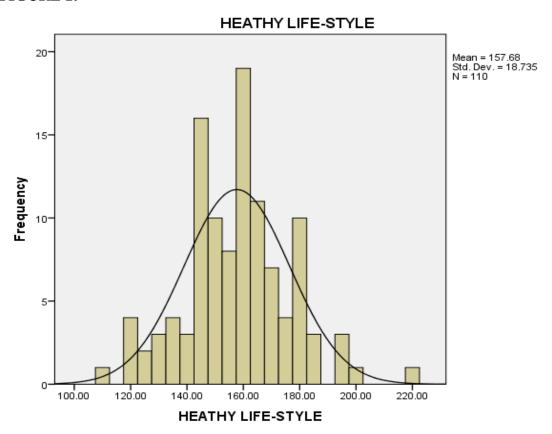
**Design/Statistics:** The study had cross-sectional and factorial designs, in which data were collected across a naturally existing population that had the characteristics of the behaviours

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of interest. The design had life-style and three university types as the independent factors tested against multiple levels of stress experience as the dependent factors. The statistics employed were the descriptive and multivariate (multiple analysis of variance - MANOVA) statistics. Stress experience was the dependent variable (DV), while life-style and university type were the independent variables (IVs). Also, the multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA) statistics was used because one of the IVs (university type) was a fixed factor. MANOVA examines influence when multiple independent variables (IVs) containing a fixed factor are tested on a dependent variable (DV).

## **RESULT**

## FIGURE 1:



Histogram for Life-Style Pattern among University Academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria.

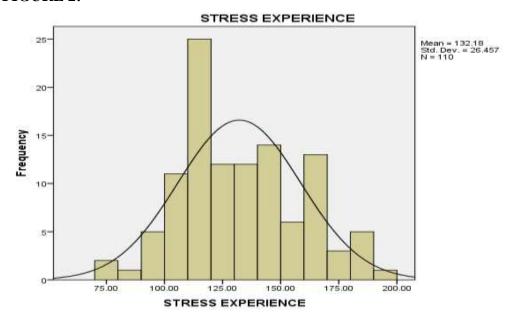
Source: Primary data collected by researchers on life-style among University Academics in Anambra State

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From the figure 1 above, the life-style of the university academics in Anambra State is slightly below normalcy, indicating poor, unimpressive, and unhealthy life-style. The mean (157.68) is slightly below the peak of the normal curve (160.00). Even with the university academics' life-style being below normal, there are well manifested variations in this below-normalcy life-style as shown in the standard deviation of 18.74.

## FIGURE 2:



Stress Experience among University Academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria. Source: Primary data collected by researchers

From the figure 2 above, the stress experience of the university academics in Anambra State is above normalcy, indicating very high stress experience. The mean (132.18) is above the normal curve (128.00). There are well manifested variations in this stress experience as shown in the standard deviation of 26.457.

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TABLE 1:

				Hypothes	Error	
Effect		Value	$\mathbf{F}$	is df	df	Sig.
LIFE-STYLE	Pillai's Trace	7.067	1.577**	459.000	198.00	.000
	Wilks' Lambda	.000	1.715**	459.000	148.52 8	.000
	Hotelling's Trace	66.02 1	1.758**	459.000	110.00 0	.000
	Roy's Largest Root	21.50 4	9.276**	51.000	22.000	.000
UNIVERSITY TYPE	Pillai's Trace Wilks' Lambda Hotelling's Trace Roy's Largest Root	.851 .295 1.901 1.591	1.234 1.311 <sup>b</sup> 1.373 2.651* <sup>c</sup>	18.000 18.000	30.000 28.000 26.000 15.000	.297 .254 .225 .046
LIFE-STYLE &	Pillai's Trace	4.647	.691	306.000	198.00	.998
UNIVERSITY TYPE	Wilks' Lambda	.000	.711	306.000	144.40 5	.993
	Hotelling's Trace	17.38 5	.694	306.000	110.00 0	.992
	Roy's Largest Root	5.418	3.506**	34.000	22.000	.001

Multivariate Tests<sup>a</sup> for Life-Style and University Type as Stress Experience Contributors among University Academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria

NOTE: Significant @ \*  $P \le 0.5$ , N = 110, F = 2.651; \*\*  $P \le .001$ , N = 110, F = 1.577, 1.715, 1.758, 9.276, 3.506

Source: Primary data collected by researchers

Table 1: Above showed that life-style made very high significant contribution to stress experience among university academics ( $P \le .001 > .000$ ; F = 1.577, 1.715, 1.758, 9.276; df = 459 & 51, N = 110). Again, university type was a significant contributor of stress experience among university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria ( $P \le .05 > .046$ ; F = 2.651; df = 18 & 9; N = 110). The combination of university type and life-style increased the stress experience

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significantly ( $P \le .001 \ge .001$ , F = 3.506, df = 306 & 34.00, N = 110). These results possibly explained the very high stress experience of table figure 2.

TABLE 2:

_		Type III Sum of		Mean	_	
Source	Dependent Variable	Squares	df	Square	F	Sig.
HEALTHY	Relationship with Students	1236.691	51	24.249	1.619	.109
LIFE-STYLE	Relationship with Colleagues	1243.521	51	24.383	2.029*	.036
	Relationship with Management	1915.795	51	37.565	.886	.649
	Teaching Work Stress	1080.616	51	21.189	1.256	.285
	Research Stress	1039.123	51	20.375	1.933*	.047
	Teaching Task Stress	1141.343	51	22.379	2.445*	.012
	Work Home Conflict Stress	1141.410	51	22.381	1.764	.074
	Work Environment Stress	1371.838	51	26.899	1.342	.228
	STRESS EXPERIENCE	43994.210	51	862.632	2.123*	.028
UNIVERSIT	Relationship with Students	6.345	2	3.173	.212	.811
Y TYPES	Relationship with Colleagues	25.803	2	12.902	1.074	.359
	Relationship with Management	48.196	2	24.098	.568	.575
	Teaching Work Stress	35.811	2	17.905	1.061	.363
	Research Stress	10.120	2	5.060	.480	.625
	Teaching Task Stress	10.588	2	5.294	.578	.569
	Work Home Conflict Stress	12.569	2	6.285	.495	.616
	Work Environment Stress	93.411	2	46.706	2.330	.121
	STRESS EXPERIENCE	1225.373	2	612.687	1.508	.243
HEALTHY	Relationship with Students	534.064	34	15.708	1.049	.463
LIFE- STYLE	Relationship with Colleagues	404.014	34	11.883	.989	.522
& UNIVERSIT	Relationship with Management	714.001	34	21.000	.495	.968
Y TYPES	Teaching Work Stress	678.591	34	19.959	1.183	.345
	Research Stress	277.145	34	8.151	.774	.755
	Teaching Task Stress	396.293	34	11.656	1.274	.279
	Work Home Conflict Stress	573.851	34	16.878	1.330	.244
	Work Environment Stress	479.544	34	14.104	.704	.826

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Error	Relationship with Students	329.500	22	14.977
	Relationship with	264.333	22	12.015
	Colleagues	204.333	22	12.013
	Relationship with	022 922	22	42.402
	Management	932.833	22	42.402
	Teaching Work Stress	371.167	22	16.871
	Research Stress	231.833	22	10.538
	Teaching Task Stress	201.333	22	9.152
	Work Home Conflict Stress	279.167	22	12.689
	Work Environment Stress	441.000	22	20.045
	STRESS EXPERIENCE	8941.000	22	406.409
Total	Relationship with Students	34164.000	110	
	Relationship with	21072 000	110	
	Colleagues	31073.000	110	
	Relationship with	28478.000	110	
	Management	20470.000	110	
	Teaching Work Stress	37026.000	110	
	Research Stress	35815.000	110	
	Teaching Task Stress	33257.000	110	
	Work Home Conflict Stress	30361.000	110	
	Work Environment Stress	34975.000	110	
	STRESS EXPERIENCE	1998220.00	110	
		0	110	

MANOVA Table for Tests of Between-Subjects Effects for Life-Style and University Type as Stress Experience Influencers among University Academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria

NOTE: Significant @ \*  $P \le .05$ ; 110; F = 2.029, 1.933, 2.445, 2.123

Source: Primary data collected by researchers on life-style and university type as stress experience "predisposer" among university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Generally, life-style significantly predisposed university academics to stress experiences  $P \le 05 > .028$ , F = 2.123, N = 110. Micro analysis of table 2 above further showed as follows: (i) Life-style is a significant "predisposer" to stress arising from relationship with colleague  $P \le .05 > 0.036$ , F = 2.029, N = 110; (ii) life-style is a significant "predisposer" to research stress  $P \le .05 > .047$ , N = 110, F = 1.933; (iii) life-style is a significant "predisposer" to teaching task stress  $P \le .05 > .012$ , F = 2.445, N = 110.

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Table 3:

Dependent Variable	(I) UNIVERSIT Y TYPE	(J) UNIVERSIT Y TYPE	Mean Difference(I -J) = X	Std. Error	Sig.
Relationship	Federal	State	-3) = A $-1.0911$	.82595	.432
with Students	University	University	-1.0911	.62393	.432
with Students	Oniversity	Private	9980	1.0031	.616
		University	7760	1.0031	.010
	State	Federal	1.0911	.82595	.432
	University	University	1.0711	.02373	.732
	Oniversity	Private	.0931	1.0185	.996
		University	.0731	1.0103	.770
	Private	Federal	.9980	1.0031	.616
	University	University	.,,,,,,	8	.010
	Omversity	State	0931	1.0185	.996
		University	.0731	2	.,,,
Relationship	Federal	State	-1.2733	.73978	.249
with Colleagues	University	University	1.2,33	.,,,,,,	.2.,
with contagues	Cinversity	Private	.3696	.89852	.919
		University	.5070	.0,002	.,,1,
	State	Federal	1.2733	.73978	.249
	University	University	1.2700	1,0,70	,
		Private	1.6429	.91226	.220
		University	1.0.2	1,71220	0
	Private	Federal	3696	.89852	.919
	University	University		.0,002	., .,
		State	-1.6429	.91226	.220
		University	1.0.2	1,71220	0
Relationship	Federal	State	7826	1.3897	.854
with	University	University	.,,,_,	2	
Management		Private	1008	1.6879	.998
<b>g</b>		University		3	
	State	Federal	.7826	1.3897	.854
	University	University		2	
		Private	.6818	1.7137	.924
		University		4	
	Private	Federal	.1008	1.6879	.998
	University	University		3	
	J	State	6818	1.7137	.924
		University		4	

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Teaching Work Stress  Univer  State Univer  Private Univer	rsity	State University Private University Federal University Private University	-1.2619 1.0000 1.2619 2.2619	.87662 1.0647 2 .87662 1.0810	.372 .649 .372
State Univer Private	rsity	Private University Federal University Private	1.2619	.87662	.372
Univer Private	·	University Federal University Private	1.2619	.87662	.372
Univer Private	·	Federal University Private		.87662	
Univer Private	·	University Private			
Private	·	Private	2.2619	1.0810	
	e				.136
	e			0	
		Federal	-1.0000	1.0647	.649
Univer	rsity	University		2	
	J	State	-2.2619	1.0810	.136
		University		0	
Research Stress Federa	તી	State	9545	.69281	.402
Univer		University	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		
		Private	-1.2055	.84147	.375
		University			
State		Federal	.9545	.69281	.402
Univer	rsitv	University	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	.0,201	
	1010)	Private	2511	.85434	.958
		University	,2011	.00 .0 .	.,,,,
Private	e	Federal	1.2055	.84147	.375
Univer		University			
		State	.2511	.85434	.958
		University	,2011	.00 .0 .	.,,,,
<b>Teaching Task</b> Federa	1	State	.1346	.64563	.979
Stress Univer		University	710.10	10.10.00	.,,,
		Private	.5870	.78417	.758
		University			
State		Federal	1346	.64563	.979
Univer	rsitv	University	710.10	10.10.00	.,,,
	1010)	Private	.4524	.79616	.852
		University	7.62.	.,,,,,,	
Private	2	Federal	5870	.78417	.758
Univer		University	.5070	., 0.17	.,,,,
	isity	State	4524	.79616	.852
		University		.,,,,,,	.002
Work Home Federa	ıl	State	5093	.76025	.801
Conflict Stress Univer		University	.5075	., 0020	.501
		Private	1067	.92339	.993
		University	.1007	., 2007	.,,,,

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	State	Federal	.5093	.76025	.801
	University	University			
		Private	.4026	.93751	.912
		University			
	Private	Federal	.1067	.92339	.993
	University	University			
		State	4026	.93751	.912
		University			
Work	Federal	State	-3.0031*	.95553	.017
<b>Environment</b>	University	University			
Stress	·	Private	-1.1265	1.1605	.630
		University		7	
	State	Federal	$3.0031^{*}$	.95553	.017
	University	University			
	•	Private	1.8766	1.1783	.301
		University		2	
	Private	Federal	1.1265	1.1605	.630
	University	University		7	
	·	State	-1.8766	1.1783	.301
		University		2	
STRESS	Federal	State	-9.5455	4.3024	.108
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	University	University		9	
	·	Private	-5.2945	5.2257	.606
		University		2	
	State	Federal	9.5455	4.3024	.108
	University	University		9	
	·	Private	4.2511	5.3056	.729
		University		1	
	Private	Federal	5.2945	5.2257	.606
	University	University		2	
	•	State	-4.2511	5.3056	.729
		University		1	

Scheffe Test Comparisons for Life-style and University Type as Stress Influencers Significant  $P \le .05 > 0.017$ , N = 110, X = -3.0031 & 3.0031; Source: Primary data collected by researcher

Table 3 above showed that work environment stress was the significant causal factor for the variations in stress existing among the academics of the Federal government-owned and State government-owned universities ( $P \le .05 > .017$ , N = 110, X = -3.0031 & 3.0031 respectively). This could indicate that systemic, institutional or organizational development of the

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government-owned universities could be the stress causal factors. However, no such significant result was found for the private-owned university on any stress patterns.

# **Summary of Results/Findings**

- 1. Generally, life-style significantly predisposed university academics in Anambra State, Eastern Nigeria to high stress.
- 2. Life-style significantly predisposed the university academics to stress arising from relationship with colleagues.
- 3. Life-style significantly predisposed the university academics to research stress.
- 4. Life-style significantly predisposed the university academics to teaching task stress.
- 5. Life-style in conjunction with the University type make significant contributions to stress experience of academics/lecturers.
- 6. Work environment stressors were significant causal factors for the variations in stress experiences of the university academics in the Federal government-owned and State government-owned universities.

# **DISCUSSION**

The findings of the study showed that the level of stress experiences among university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria were significantly high. This corresponds with the findings of Winefield and Jarret (2001) that psychological stress was higher among academic staff than general staff. The study found that both Federal government-owned and State government-owned universities predisposed their academics to stress experiences. This findings could have arisen from the earlier findings by Tayo, Okotoni and Adebakin (2012) that there was no significant difference in the infrastructural development between the two types of government-owned universities. Lack of effective and adequate infrastructure put pressure on the available facilities. Again, university academics are put under pressure to accomplish goals. These situations create tension, burnout and stress for the university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria. The situation is further made complex because the population of university students have grown tremendously that it is becoming strenuous managing students on the campus and achieving very sound academic goals equally (Nwankwo, Officha, Ohakwe, Mbonu, Temidayo & Ofoedu). The findings of this study have to be taken with caution as the study was limited to university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria.

## **Implications of the Study and its Findings**

The study and its findings have the following research and practice implications.

1. Poor rating of most Nigerian universities could be attributed to the work environment (systemic, institutional or organizational) stressors, which negate goal attainments in the universities.

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- 2. Nigerian university academics/lecturers need to adopt healthy life-style as a central personality quality of self-management of stress.
- 3. Creativity and innovation are obtainable in healthy intelligentsia, not stressed up university academics/lecturers with unhealthy life-style as found in this study.
- 4. The quality assurance of Nigerian universities will be skewed retrogressively if the findings of this study are not reversed and improved upon.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study examined life-style and university type as social and organizational "predisposers" to stress among university academics in Anambra State, Nigeria. Findings of the study show that life-style significantly predisposed university academics to stress experiences. Life-style significantly predisposed university academics to stress arising from relationship with colleagues, research stress, and teaching task stress. Again, university type make significant contributions to stress experience of their academics/lecturers. Work environment stress was the significant stress causal factor for the Federal government-owned and State government-owned universities, which was not found for the private-owned university.

## Recommendations

- 1. University academics in Anambra State, Nigeria, should adopt healthy life-style, as it is necessary in stress management.
- 2. The work environment of the university systems in Anambra State, Nigeria needs to be re-appraised and improved upon.

# **Suggestions for Future Research**

- 1. Future researches need to explore the contributions of the following vis-à-vis functional performance of the university system in Nigeria:
  - a. University management;
  - b. Culture/Tribe;
  - c. Politics
- 2. Cross-cultural studies of the subject-matter needs to be carried out.

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# **APPENDIX**

# **LIFE-STYLE QUESTIONNAIRE**

	ITEMS	1	2	3	4	5
	PHYSICAL HEALTH					
1.	I take care of my health					
2.	I go to the doctor for regular check up					
3.	I check my blood pressure at least once a month					
4.	I spend some time during the week for relaxation					
5.	I check my blood sugar and blood fat levels at least					
	once a year					
6.	I watch the TV program related to health					
7.	I get information about health issues and disease					
	symptoms from health center					
8.	I try to keep my body healthy					
9.	I sleep 7-8 hours a day					
	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE					
10.	I have an active life					
11.	I do stretching exercises several times a week					
12.	I do physical activity such as brisk walking, cycling					
	and swimming at least three days a week and 30 mins					
	at a time.					
13.	I have a specific exercise program					
14.	I have enough energy to spending a day without fatigue					
15.	My physical health is almost the same level of my peer					
	group					
	MENTAL HEALTH					
16.	I am able to express my feelings					
17.	I am satisfied from myself					
18.	I am able to adapt to changes during life					
19.	I am able to manage and reduce stress in my life					
20.	I am hopeful about my future					
21.	I get angry with the smallest things					
22.	I have positive thoughts and feelings					
23.	I consult with other when faced with a problem in my					
	life					
24.	I help people in emergency time (such as flood,					
	earthquake)					
25.	I am able to express the feelings toward others					
26.	DRUY AND ALCOHOL AVOIDANCE					

27.	I avoid smoking			
28.	I avoid using drug			
29.	I refuse to associate with addicts and alcoholics			
30.	I avoid drinking alcohol			
31.	I avoid self-medication			
32.	I expose to cigarette smoke			
33.	I avoid using the pipe			
34.	I avoid using the hookah			
	BALANCED CONSUMPTION OF FOOD			
35.	I avoid using high cholesterol foods such as liver, eggs			
	and red meat, indiscriminately.			
36.	I avoid using salt, indiscriminately.			
37.	I avoid using sugary materials, indiscriminately.			
38.	I avoid eating animal fats and fatty foods			
39.	I read the food labels to find out the nutrition facts (fat,			
	protein, and fiber)			
40.	I avoid using sausage and canned foods			
	indiscriminately.			
41.	I avoid eating blackened or burnt food			
	ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS AND			
	HARMFUL SUBSTANCES			
42.	I avoid excessive exposure to sunlight			
43.	I use the cosmetics.			
44.	I use a microwave for cooking			
45.	I use protective equipment from sunlight such as			
	sunscreen, cap, sunglasses etc.			
46.	I use the cleaning materials such as bleaching liquids.			
47.	I read the instruction labels on all detergents, cleaners			
	and disinfectants.			
48.	I don't use the pesticides in my home or workplace; if			
	it is necessary, I read carefully the instruction labels.			
49.	I don't bring my cell phone into the bedroom			
50.	I use the hair dye e-3 times a year.			
	WEIGHT CONTROL AND NUTRITION			
51.	I try to keep my weight in a satisfactory level.			
52.	I have a balance diet.			
53.	I use a special diet for weight control.			
54.	I intake fruit and vegetable 5 or more times everyday.			
55.	I intake whole meal bread, cereal and grains several			
	times per day.			
	• •		-	

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56.	I use dairy product such as milk, yoghurt and cheese 2			
	or more time every day.			
	REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH			
57.	I get a pap test at least once a year.			
58.	I use the contraceptive pill.			
59.	I use Hormone pills during menopause			

Developed by Momayyezi, Fallahzadeh and Momayyezi (2015).

# **STRESS QUESTIONNAIRE**

To what extent do you experience stress on the academic issues/items below:

		1	2	3	4	5
	RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS					
1.	Teaching students who are less interested in studies					
2.	Handling students who have poor attendance in					
	classroom					
3.	Counseling and teaching students individually					
4.	Insuring Order and discipline in the class					
5.	Handling an undisciplined student in the class Aggregate					
	mean					
	RELATIONSHIP WITH COLLEAGUES					
6.	Non Cooperation of colleagues in work					
7.	Casual Behavior of Colleagues in completing the job					
8.	Immediate Senior's attitude is in appropriate and					
	irritating					
9.	Seniority complex among the senior colleagues					
10.	Favouritism done by colleagues on the basis on family					
	relation, caste, religion, region and others.					
	RELATIONSHIP WITH MANAGEMENT					
11.	Attitude of Chairman/Director about your working style					
12.	Intervention by Head/Director of the institute about your					
	routine activities.					
13.	Ever changing educational policies of management					
14.	Lack of communication between the management and					
	teachers					
15.	Reporting by head to management about routine					
	activities.					

	STRESS ARISING FROM TEACHING WORK			
16.	Having excess number of students to teach in the			
	classroom			
17.	Having workload more than prescribed work load by the			
	UGC/AICTE/UPTU			
18.	Delivering lectures continuously without intervention			
19.	Over work time to meet more requirement			
20.	Fewer holidays as prescribed by the UGC/AICTE/UPTU			
	STRESS ARISING FROM RESEARCH			
21.	No provision for academic leave for participating in			
	seminar/conference etc.			
22.	Having no time to do good quality research			
23.	Having no provision for reduction in work load to			
	accommodate research work.			
24.	Teaching and research achievement to be considered			
	equally in promotion procedures.			
25.	Inadequate research facilities in the institute.			
	ARISING FROM TEACHING TASK			
26.	Execution of administrative duties with teaching and			
	research assignment.			
27.	Making compromises in teaching and research work at			
	the cost of excess administrative work.			
28.	Inability to carry out teaching assignment to satisfaction			
	on account of excessive workload and time shortage.			
29.	Neglecting basic things which are essential for a teacher			
	like reading books, newspaper, journals and magazines.			
30.	Non attending seminar conference due to excess			
	workload.			
	STRESS RESULTING FROM WORK HOME			
21	CONFLICTS			
31.	Inability to devote sufficient time for domestic and			
22	personal problems because of excessive work loan.			
32.	Seeing family member and friends less frequently.			
33.	Postponing or canceling personal appointments.			
34.	Not being able to give enough time to family and			
25	children.			
35.	Doing household chores after reaching home.			
	STRESS RESULTING FROM WORK ENVIRONMENT			
26				
36.	No recognition by Head/Chairman/Director.			

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37.	Often being criticized by Head/Chairman/Director			
	without any reasons.			
38.	Colleagues and subordinate trying to letdown you			
	unnecessarily.			
39.	Colleagues spreading rumors			
40.	Unhygienic condition at work place.			
	EFFECTS OF STRESS ON PERSONAL'S HEALTH			
41.	Hypertension			
42.	Cardio-vascular Disease			
43.	Pulmonary Disease			
44.	Diabetes			
45.	Depression			
46.	Behavioral Disorder			
	MANAGEMENT OF STRESS			
47.	Talk to the social group			
48.	Try to think Positively.			
49.	Jogging or doing exercise			
50.	Relax by doing something enjoyable			
51.	Proceed on leave		•	

Developed by Shabana, Singhal, Siddique and Agarwal (2017).