

## **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION AND THE PREVALENCE OF BOOK PIRACY: A CASE STUDY OF CALABAR METROPOLIS IN NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study was conducted in Calabar Metropolis, Nigeria. Survey research design was used in the study whose population consisted of book vendors in Calabar Metropolis, the staff of the Nigeria Copyright Commission at the Federal Secretariat Complex Calabar and members of the general public who accidentally granted interview with the researcher. The respondents' level of awareness of copyright legislation and the consequences of copyright infringement is reasonably high. Though there were some vendors who had no idea of copyright legislation as well as those who knew about it but do not understand the consequences of copyright violation. The finding shows that 52.5 % of the respondents' are conversant with copyright issues and the consequences of copyright violations. Moreover, on the reasons why book piracy has continue to thrive, quick turn over, affordability and a source of livelihood were identified as major reasons. The finding of the study further showed that 29% of pirated books found in Nigeria were imported from overseas. This implies that the books were either carried into the country through the ports whether sea or air. The study recommends that government should look inwards, purge its agencies in the fight against piracy and carry out advocacy campaign against piracy and its products. It is also advisable to subsidise stationeries, other printing materials and remove import duties on books to reduce the cost of books in the country. The multiplier effect of this policy will translate into low prices of books and making books more affordable thereby discouraging the activities of pirates.

**Keywords:** Copyright, Copyright legislation, Pirated Books, Calabar Metropolis.