



INFLUENCE OF SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the influence of the security management system on the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University in Nigeria. The study adopted a correlational design. The population of the study consist of all undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria. Two null hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance. The sample size of the study consisted of 350 respondents selected using an accidental sampling technique. Two research instruments titled Security Management System Questionnaire (SMSQ) and the Record Observation Format (ROF) were used for data collection. The validity of the instrument was established through content validity and the reliability consistency of the instruments was determined using the Cronbach alpha method with a coefficient of 0.72. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to analyse data collected via Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23.0. The findings showed that a positive significant relationship existed between the implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria ($r = 0.666$; $N=350$; $p < 0.05$); Also, and a positive significant relationship existed between funding of university security system and academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria ($r = 0.645$; $N=350$; $p < 0.05$). The study concluded that planning and funding of campus security influence the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria. Therefore, it is recommended amongst others that university management should intensify efforts in promoting safety among students and managing the campus security system through adequate planning, monitoring, funding and budgeting implementation toward achieving a peaceful academic environment.

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1. Introduction

Education is an essential tool for the socio-cultural, economic, political, and security development of a nation. According to Boit, Njoki and Chang'ach (2012), the purpose of education is to equip individuals to reshape their society and eliminate inequality. The National Policy on Education sees tertiary education as a post-secondary section of the national education system which is given in universities, polytechnics, mono-technic, and colleges of education. The goals of tertiary education are to contribute to national development through high-level relevant manpower training, develop both physical and intellectual skills which will enable individuals to be self-reliant and useful members of society and forge and cement national unity among others (FGN,2013). The objective of tertiary education in Nigeria can only be realised when the tertiary institution environment is peaceful, secure, and conducive to teaching, learning and implementation of research programmes (Ogunode, Okwelogu, Elechukwu & Yahaya, 2021). University education is the ivory tower and relevant sector for enhancing human capital

development. University education is the third stage of education after the completion of secondary education. The academic staff play a crucial role in the educational attainment of students because they are ultimately responsible for translating into actions the principles, theories, and practices during interaction with the students for sustainable development.

Today, the calamity of insecurity spreads drastically from the community to the university campus in Nigeria. Most of Nigeria's public universities are finding it difficult to actualize the goals of education due to the incessant crisis and insecurity bedevilled with the system. Sequel to the calamity of insecurity in Nigeria, effective teaching and learning seem to be dwindling toward the attainment of academic excellence. Insecurity seems to be a state of danger, anxiety, fear, worry, and uncertainty which can hinder the growth and development of man and society. However, insecurity is the antithesis of the security system and has attracted such common descriptors as want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and others (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013).

Over two decades, the Lagos metropolis has been enmeshed with ethical, moral and security crises which hamper the safety culture of the community. The youths of the state are becoming violent in nature, vulnerable to criminal activities and social bigotry that include cultism, drug abuse, nudity, Yahoo Plus, sexual harassment, evil-mindedness, money rituals, kidnapping, and moral decadence. This unethical behaviour orchestrated by some youths of the Lagos State has been transmitted into the university education system. Cultism, Sexual harassment, and victimization have been documented as serious crimes plaguing tertiary institutions in Nigeria, which have impacted fear and trauma, depression, and aggressive behaviour in the victims (Imonikhe, Aluede & Idogho, 2012). Moreover, Beland in Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) posited that insecurity is “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.” It refers to a lack of inadequate freedom from danger. The menace of crime rate increase at geometric progression in Lagos State metropolis especially on the issue of land grabbers, cybercrime, murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, money rituals, arm robbery, kidnapping, fighting, vandalism, extortion, drug abuse, abortion, examination malpractices, indecent dressing, teenage pregnancy, use of acid, arson, gun use, community hooligans and rudeness to lecturers which are rampant among the university students. Academic staff face security threats because of indiscipline among undergraduate students, especially in cases of cultism, harassment, aggressive acts, fighting, bullying and vandalism. According to Odumbo, Shittu, Akinyemi and Momoh (2017), Lagos State has a palpable security challenge. Violence has become rampant and the high incidence of insecurity in student cult-related activities, hooliganism, gangsterism, rape, internet fraud, and indecent dressing has portended danger for the peace, progress,

and development in the university campus. On this premise, it is pertinent to note that economic depression, poverty, moral decadence, poor standard of living, high cost of living, inflation, unemployment, poor parental upbringing, greed amongst the youths, get-rich-quick mentality and inadequate crime control are the causes of insecurity in Lagos metropolis. It is this that all stakeholders in university education such as government, policymakers, university management, non-governmental organisations, community leaders, parents, teachers, and students must collaborate and work assiduously to motivate and commit Nigerian Inspector-General of Police and Commissioner of Police in Lagos State.

Furthermore, the tide of insecurity in the Nigerian university system is alarming with nations in tears each passing day and Lagos cannot be exempted from the catastrophic situation that endangered the peaceful coexistence in Lagos State universities. The protection of the lives and properties of students and lecturers becomes an area of interest to the university authorities and management to marshal their plan, organise, coordinate, and control crises for safety and to protect the image of the university campus. Gamba (2000) argues that the incidence of violent crimes in Nigerian tertiary institutions is caused by poverty, or value system and the inability of some school administrators to enforce existing schools' rules and regulations. Moreover, the safety and learning of students on any university campus depend on the climate created by the management of the institution. Undergraduate students learn effectively when the school environment is safe, secure, and devoid of elements capable of infringing on their freedom and fundamental human rights. safety seems to be freedom from threat. The threat is generally understood as a lack of security, which makes it unchanging and unavoidable, and in some cases universal, the reality of human life. A threat is a risk that may be created by external factors from the environment of the enterprise that are not directly affected by management (Wysokinska-Senkus, 2020). Therefore, the university management of Lagos State University applied planning and funding strategies to tackle the challenges of insecurity within and outside the university community, especially on cultism, robbery, bullying, sexual harassment, land grabbing matters, cybercrime, internet fraud, protest, strike action and so on which are rampant among the university students in Nigeria which affect their character and building their social attitudes. In a nutshell, the management of Nigerian universities developed planning and funding strategies to curb the menace of insecurity that eroded the peaceful atmosphere on the campus. Undergraduate students can only attain academic excellence when they pursue their academic activities in a safe and conducive environment. Students' involvement in social vices and moral decadence may not only hinder their academic performance but could dent the image of their university and reputation. The safety and learning of students in any school depend on the climate created by the administrators of the institution (Asiyai & Oghuvbu, 2020).

Consequently, the management of Lagos State University developed strategic planning on security consciousness within and outside the campus, complementing community security outfit with campus security, mounting security cameras in strategic areas in the campus and information gathering on security threats toward enduring safety and sustainable development. Sustainable development is one of the biggest challenges for the education system in the 21st century because it has become one of the most important strategic goals of almost every organisation in both the economic and social sectors. To achieve the goals of sustainable development and enable a quick return to this path after the risk materializes, it is necessary to take actions in the field of education for safety that will contribute to improving the awareness and concentration of the organization's stakeholders on economic, social, and environmental goals.

2. Statement of the Problem

Recently, the university education system has been enmeshed in a firebox of student protest, strike action and insecurity leading to low academic performance. The insecurity in university campuses became rampant in the Lagos metropolis. The criminal cases are increasing at geometric progression while the strategies to curb the menace by the university management are at arithmetic progression. Safety and security of the lives and properties of students and lecturers pose a serious challenge on the school campus and pose a major threat to the smooth administration of the university. The management identified lawlessness amongst undergraduate students and anti-social vices like religious bigotry, fighting, stealing, cult clashes, thuggery acts, assassination, indecent and provocative dressing, sexual harassment, money rituals, carjacking, yahoo-yahoo, cybercrime, sexual harassment, picketing, protest, strike action, bullying, mass failure by lecturers, hunger, hooliganism and gangsterism breach of peace, examination malpractice, destruction of lives and property, impersonation may not be able to attain academic excellence.

3. Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the study was to:

1. examine the relationship between *the* implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria; and
2. determine the relationship between funding of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria.

4. Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested in the study:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between funding of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria.

5. Methodology

The study adopted a correlation design. The data was specifically collected from a representative sample of a larger population using a questionnaire and records observation format. The study population comprised all undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria. The sample size comprised 350 undergraduate students selected from seven faculties through a simple random sampling technique in Lagos State University (LASU). Two major instruments were used to collect data. These include the Security Management System Questionnaire (SMSQ) and Records Observation Format (ROF) of final-year students. The questionnaires were scored based on the response's options on each of the items namely Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) Strongly Disagree (1). The instrument was subjected to a test-retest reliability exercise which involved administration of the instruments within two-week intervals with Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation statistical analysis. The scores obtained at different times were correlated and the reliability was established to be 0.69. The data collected were analysed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0.

6. Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

There is no relationship between *the* implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria.

Table 1: Pearson's correlation analysis between the implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria.

Variables		Implementation of Security System	Academic Performance of Undergraduate
Implementation_of_Campus_Security system	Pearson Correlation	1	.666**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	350	350
Academic_Performance_of Undergraduate	Pearson Correlation	.666**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	350	350

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 1 indicates that there is a positive significant relationship between *the* implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria ($r = 0.666$; $N = 350$; $p < 0.05$, 2-tailed). Hence, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between *the* implementation of the university security system and academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria is rejected. This implies that a significant relationship existed between *the* implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relationship between funding of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria.

Table 2: Pearson’s correlation analysis between funding of university security system and academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria.

7. Conclusion

Variables		Funding of University Security System	Students’ Academic Performance
Funding_of_University_Security System	Pearson Correlation	1	.645**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	350	350
Academic_Performance_Of Undergraduate	Pearson Correlation	.645**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	350	350

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 2 indicates that there is a positive significant relationship between funding of university security system and academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria ($r = 0.645$; $N = 350$; $p < 0.05$, 2-tailed). Hence, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant between funding of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria is rejected. This implies that a significant relationship existed between funding of university security system and academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria.

8. Discussion of Results

The result of the analysis through Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation Co-efficient shows that a significant relationship existed between the Implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students at Lagos State University, Nigeria. Specifically, it summarises that with 349 degrees of freedom at a 0.05 significant level of confidence, the calculated Pearson's Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation value ($r = 0.666$; $N = 350$; $p < 0.05$). The study also found that a significant relationship exists between the implementation of the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria. The finding lends credence to Adebayo (2014) who found that unethical issues including gross indiscipline, corruption, fraud, and laziness characterised public institutions in Nigeria. However, the study also found that a significant relationship existed between funding the university security system and the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State University, Nigeria. Specifically, it summarises that with 349 degrees of freedom at a 0.05 significant level of confidence, the obtained Pearson's Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation value ($r = 0.645$; $N = 350$; $p < 0.05$). This finding is in line with Okorie and Nwagboso in Anyaeji (2022) have called on the government and school administrators to mount security cameras at strategic areas in the campus and the community.

9.

The findings of the study provide empirical and statistical evidence that effective implementation and funding of university security have a positive relationship with the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State universities in Lagos State, Nigeria. The exposure of

undergraduate students to Modern Technologies (MT), especially the internet; where they normally download Violent, Induced Applications, films and documents can also be held responsible for the increase in the university crime rate. The study concluded that colossal rate of cultism, armed robbery, rape, kidnapping, hooliganism, gangsterism, youth unemployment, abject poverty, corruption, moral decadence, indiscipline, inflation, poor standard of living, high cost of living, inadequate security personnel, poor motivation of law enforcement agency, loss of societal value and get rich quick syndrome among others are the major causes of insecurity in Lagos State. The mentality of “man must survive” and “quick money syndrome” has brought many of these misfits, into groups of crime, targeting both students and lecturers of the university in Lagos State metropolis. Therefore, the findings of the study provide empirical and statistical evidence that effective implementation and funding of university security have a positive relationship with the academic performance of undergraduate students in Lagos State universities in Lagos State, Nigeria.

10.Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends that:

1. University management should organise orientation programs for fresh students and workshops for stay-lights while seminars should be organized for lecturers on the prevention of campus violence for the perpetrators to keep away from evils that cause insecurity.
2. University authorities need to fund the establishment of police posts, anti-cultism, and anti-rape offices in tertiary institutions where there is a prevalence of social vices on campuses.
3. Every public university in Nigeria should have a standard gate and a minimum of four military men fully armed to guide and take care of external attacks that may cause insecurity in the school.
4. Lagos State Government should design a security policy that will reduce the crime rate and give a mandate to all university management to employ security from licensed Security Company which is under the Ministry of Interior and Supervised by Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps.
5. University management should incarcerate all corrupt students involved in criminal activities within the campus and schedule periodic meetings with all the community leaders and landlords on a quarterly basis in a year to expose the perpetrator within their vicinity.
6. University management should allocate more funds to provide infrastructural facilities such as communication satellites, and security satellites should be provided by the federal and state governments for the safety of lives and property in Lagos State.
7. The policymaker should design a curriculum on safety and security education for Nigeria.

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