

An Assessment of Security Mechanisms in Academic Communities: A Study of Selected Polytechnics in the South West, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed security mechanisms in Academic communities based on the assumption that when campuses of these institutions are safe, the larger society would be safer. The problem of the study stems from the rate of activities that point to insecurity in our society for which educated youths are involved. The primary objective of the study was to find out whether facilities needed to combat serious security matters are available and adequate and whether strategic intelligence gathering tools exist to facilitate smooth security operations on the campus. Four research questions were raised while two hypotheses were formulated. Basic terms in the topic were explained. The study did conceptual and theoretical reviews under literature review placing the study of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory of motivation and the social categories theories. Using survey design, the study identified its population, selected sample and explained the technique of sample selection. A 12- item structured questionnaire was used to gather data for the study. The procedure for the instrument's validation was explained as well as its reliability. Data were collected from primary and secondary source. Analysis was done through the simple percentage method, while hypotheses were tested using the chi-square method. The study concluded that availability and adequacy of facilities needed on the campus will prevent serious security challenge on polytechnic's campuses and that availability and adequacy of strategic intelligence gathering tools will facilitate smooth security operations on the campuses of Nigeria Polytechnics. In view of the findings and conclusions of the study, the study recommends amongst others that management of tertiary institutions should move with the dynamic wave of

science and technology to keep on acquiring and utilizing facilities that are actually needed to make the campus secured in all its ramifications.

Keywords: Security, Security Mechanisms, Academic Communities, South-West, Nigeria

I. INTRODUCTION

Security challenge is a characteristic of the present day Nigeria. Our society is replete with incidents and reported cases that expose people to different forms of dangers, almost on daily basis, leaving gross of Nigerians inflicted with various injuries arising from armed robberies, kidnapping, bullying, street fighting, sports violence, cult activities and allied security matters.

The constitution of every country guarantees and protects citizens from any kind of danger or injury infliction. That is why Ibeamu and Mohammed (2005) see security as the capacity of a state to maintain order internally with minimal use of violence, given the challenges posed by other groups.

Daily reports in the mass media feed us with a myriad of unpalatable occurrences that point to great insecurity in our society, and even the highly industrialized nations are not left out of this trend. The bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States of America on 11th September, 1990 woke the world leaders up on issues of national security. In Nigeria, the consequences of economic recession, massive unemployment, bad governance and social degradation have provoked several security threatening movements that appear in form of insurgency, armed robbery, kidnapping, substance and drug abuse, espionage, and many more. Truly, threats to internal security in Nigeria have been persistent and chronic (Essien 2012). From Boko

Haram insurgency in the North east to oil bunkering and vandalization of oil pipes and facilities in the South South and now the series of Separatist agitations in the South East, with each of these activity greatly undermining the security of Nigeria.

While the rebellious activities of Boko Haram are still being tackled, the havoc wrecked by herdsmen who attack farmers when forcefully grassing their animals have also been so devastating, and for now, it is not easy to have accurate figures of casualties, dead or injured.

There's no doubting the fact that behind the nefarious activities of each of these groups of criminals are restless youths who are not only jobless but also being used by powerful elites and politicians to unleash terror on Nigerian communities. While some of these youths are plying their 'trades' on the campuses, many of these them have either left tertiary institutions or have dropped out, but still use the campuses to organize and coordinate their dastardly acts. It is also not unlikely that the larger chunks of these elements are graduates of universities, polytechnics or colleges of education. It is may be likely too that most of them were members of different cult groups in their undergraduate days.

One of the major worries of tertiary institution's administrators and indeed all the major stakeholders in education has therefore, been the growing scourge of cultism, kidnappings and abductions and even armed robbery on campuses. (TheGuardian,26th Feb,2021.,Sunnewsonline, 27th June, 2017., The Nation, 13 Feb,2017., Premiun Times, 27 February,2021 and BBC News, 8 May, 2017). The level and extent to which all these vices are growing are not only alarming but have also disrupted academic activities on the campuses of Nigeria's higher institutions and if this trend continues unchecked, the nation's security problems may become more complex and negatively compromised sooner than later. In addition to the emerging spate of kidappings and abductions in schools across the nation, Adefolakan (2005)has averred that most managers of tertiary institutions have faced herculean tasks coping with the problems that nefarious cult activities have imposed on them with a view to finding lasting solutions to the ugly trends.

To prevent the situation from getting completely out of hand, the need appears now for managers and stakeholders of tertiary institutions to begin to help the nation reduce the spate of insecurity by reducing the potential "raw materials" of those who manufacture "violence" and other forms of "social insecurities". It is in this light that

these researchers perceive Nigeria's academic communities – campuses of tertiary institutions and their environs as breeding places for potential insurgents and kidnappers and therefore sought to do an assessment of "Security Mechanism" that are on the ground with a view to ascertaining whether these academic campuses are adequately insulated from the predatory attacks of student cultists, kidnappers, insurgents.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of education and other tertiary institutions are expected to play a pivotal role in the development of a nation through scientific research, training, and community services. As citadels of learning and research therefore, the campuses on which these institutions are situated are expected to be peaceful, serene and very conducive to teaching, research and entrepreneurship. However, recent occurrences on some of these campuses have negated this serene and peaceful atmosphere needed to achieve these lofty ideals.

The campuses of many Nigerian tertiary institutions have become battlegrounds of sorts. These days, cultism, kidnappings, abductions are the norms and there is palpable fear on the campuses. Rival cult gangs have been known to engage in supremacy battles among one another and these battles usually had led to loss of lives and properties both on and off campuses. Both staff and students are gripped with fear as a result of these incidences. There is hardly any single month that the nefarious activities of these cultists do not make headlines in the media – whether Print, Broadcast or Social. Some of the headlines in some National newspapers include, "20 suspected cultists in Police net in AkwaIbom" Vanguard News, Nov 1,2017, "Cultism: 4 secondary school students, artisan, nabbed while on reprisal attack". Vanguard news, May 1, 2018, to mention just two cases. Apart from the issue of cultism, other incidents bothering on criminality have also reared their heads on the various campuses, including sexual harassment, bullying by students, substance and drug abuse, kidnappings, ritualism and 'yahoo yahoo'. All these vices compromise the security on our campuses and therefore have implications for the achievement of the objectives for which these institutions were established.

It therefore becomes imperative to assess security mechanisms in these institutions' campuses to ascertain whether the mechanisms are adequate to checkmate security threatening developments as a step to strengthening the larger security system in the Nigerian state.

Objectives of the study

From the foregoing, the study's objectives are to:

1. Find out the relationship that exists between "availability and adequacy of facilities" needed on the campus to prevail over serious security challenges on the institutions.
2. Examine the relationship that exists between availability and adequacy of "strategic intelligence gathering apparatus" and "facilitation of smooth security operations" on the campuses.
3. Identify the relationship between "students' policy" and peaceful co-existence" on campuses.
4. Find out if security personnel hired by the polytechnics can actually serve as instrument of ensuring peaceful co-existence on campuses.

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship that exists between availability and adequacy of facilities needed on the campus and the prevalence over serious security challenges on campuses?
2. What is the relationship that exists between availability and adequacy of "strategic intelligence gathering apparatus" and "facilitation of smooth security operations" on the campuses?
3. Is there a relationship between 'students' policy' and peaceful co-existence" on campuses?
4. Can security personnel hired by the polytechnics actually serve as instrument of ensuring peaceful co-existence on campuses?

Hypotheses

Arising from the above questions are the following hypotheses:

H⁰ 1: Availability and adequacy of facilities needed on the campus will not prevent serious security challenges on campuses.

H⁰ 2: Availability and adequacy of strategic intelligence gathering apparatus will not facilitate smooth security operations on the campuses.

Methodology

The study adopted survey method as its research design. This is a form of design in which "data are gathered from people through questioning them about issues of interest" hence survey research focuses on people's belief, opinion, attitudes and behavior (Akintunde, 2012). It (the study) had as its population all security personnel of the three polytechnics selected for investigation.

Population of Study

These security personnel are those on the pay roll of the selected polytechnics as well as the out-sourced ones. Other voluntary security organisations run by students were incorporated into the population. In this category are the Cadet,

Man "O" War and Students' OPC. All together, the population of these categories of security officials in the three polytechnics was 589.

Population Sample

350 members of this population were chosen as sample. This amounted to 59% of the population, a figure considered good enough to represent the population.

Sampling Technique

In selecting the population, accidental sampling technique was used in view of the homogenous nature of the population.

Research Instrument

The research instrument used was the questionnaire hence a 12-item questionnaire was used to collect information from respondents.

Validity of Research Instrument

This instrument was validated by making it available to research experts for content scrutiny relative to the study's objectives and research questions. This was to ensure that the questionnaire was indeed capable of providing the kind of information it was meant to generate. Observations were noted and necessary adjustment made before it was actually administered on the real respondents.

Sources of data

Data for the study were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary sources included the results gathered from respondents in the administered questionnaire. The secondary sources included views and opinions gathered in books, journals, periodicals, internet, etc.

Data Analyses

Data collected were presented in tables and analyzed with the use of simple percentage method while the study's hypotheses were tested with the use of chi-square method.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on both Maslow's Hierarchy of needs theory as well as the Social Categories theory (1970)

Maslow's hierarchy of needs Theory:

The study was based on Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. He identified as model of motivation which has five levels.

Some levels in this model of needs focused on human survival needs which have to as a matter of necessity be satisfied for continued existence and comforts of a person. Personal growth and output form the upper part of the motivation needs.

The theory postulates that it is essential for the needs at lower levels to be satisfied before higher needs can be fulfilled. The thinking of Maslow was that once a particular need has been satisfied, it no longer motivates. Ability to satisfy lower needs automatically makes ones to proceed to upper levels.

The five levels of needs that motivate human beings, according to Maslow in Aina (2002) are:

Physiological needs: courtship of sex, warmth, shelter, clothing and food.

Safety needs: These consist of a sense of security which connotes the absence of team.

Social Needs includes the need to interact with other people and having friends.

Esteem Needs is being regarded favorably and well by other people and being appreciated by them.

Self – Actualization Needs are the in categories of winning Laurels and get more achievements as well as the realization of the potentials of individual potential.

The concern of this study is the area of safety needs. Perhaps, the fundamental of human existence is no doubt made possible by the provisions of physiological needs of food, shelter, clothing, sex, warmth etc.

Yet, such existence will definitely be meaningless without the absence of fear. Fear to move freely without harassment and molestation, fear of what to eat and make living with, fear of job insecurity, fear to express oneself and fear to live without any form of attack and fear to pursue ‘Self Independence’.

It is apparent that without being protected against all these hypes of fears, the individual will certainly not enjoy total satisfaction of other forms of needs. Social needs would be seriously affected esteem needs would suffer while self-actualisation needs would be difficult to attain.

This explanation has presented the relevance of the safety needs components of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. A discussion about security mechanism on the campuses of tertiary individuals would not be better treated without recourse to efforts being made by management of these organisations to identify, implement and protect the needs of students in the area of security whether the institution has hostel facilities or not. Such efforts should be extended to student’s residential areas. Efforts of managers of tertiary institutions in this direction have therefore made them to face herculean task, especially in the area of fight against cultism (Adefolakan, 2006).

It is on this premise that Maslow’s theory of motivation has been chosen as one of the theoretical framework of the study.

Social Categories Theory:

This is a Communication theory that sees individuals without categories such as age level, sex, social standard and educational status as having high tenderness to react same way in the contexts of Mass Media. This is in sharp contrast with the Individual Differences theory which recognizes the individuality in man as a precursor to human behavior, (cited in Raufu, 2016).

The theory propounded by Melvin De Fleur (1970) was of the assumption that members of particular social group/categories naturally enjoy values, interests, attitude and behavior that are very similar to the category each individual falls and this would be different from other values, attitude and behaviors of individuals without the other categories.

It will not be out of place to build a study on campus security on the social categories theory giving the manner in which different categories of individuals within the society exhibit actions and behaviors that can be traced to them. For example, restlessness and cultism would always come from "students of higher institutions" and of course certain "age group".

The contention here is that the issues of insecurity, especially in higher institutions of learning cannot be discussed without a mention of certain individuals who are no doubt being influenced by the social category he/she belongs.

Therefore, the study found social categories theory relevant to the discourse on security in our various campuses.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The raw data collected through a structured questionnaire administered on respondents were presented in this part of the study’s report. It is important to say that 350 copies of the questionnaire were distributed among the three polytechnics studied i.e. MoshoodAbiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta, Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos and the Polytechnic Ibadan.

The total number of questionnaire that was returned as at the time of this analysis was 306 representing 87% of the questionnaire administered on respondents. This was considered well enough for data presentation, analysis, interpretation and test of hypotheses.

The raw data collected were presented in tables and analyzed with the use of simple percentage formula and interpreted accordingly. To test the study’s hypotheses, the researcher adopted the chi-square method of hypotheses testing:

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O - E)^2 /$$

Σ

where “O” is the observed frequency, E is the expected frequency. E is the summation of.

III. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Table 1: Gender distribution of respondents

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	182	59.5
Female	124	40.5
Total	306	100

The table above indicates that 59.5% of the total respondents were male while 40.5% were female. This figures suggested that in the security services of the selected polytechnics, there were more male security personnel than female. By

interpretation, if capability is measured partly in terms of strength which a characteristics of man, then, substantially, security of these institutions is in capable hands.

Table 2: Respondents Classification according to outfits

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
In house	36	11.8
Outsourced	45	14.7
Students' outfit	225	73.5
Others	-	-
Total	306	100

From the table above, 11.8% of respondents were “in-house” security personnel i.e. on the pay roll of the polytechnics, 14.7% was outsourced while 73.5% were students' security outfits. This simply

means that the bulk of the campus security operations is left for students' security outfit like Cadet, Man ‘O’ War, Students OPC etc. to perform.

Table 3: Respondents' length of service

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1-5yrs	205	68.8
6-10yrs	51	17.1
10yr & above	298	100
Total	298	100

This table presents the length of service of respondents (security personnel). 68.8% have had experience ranging from one to five years, 17.1%

can boast of six to ten years' experience while 14.1% have had working experience beyond ten years.

Table 4: Respondents' remuneration

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very reasonable	72	25
Reasonable	186	64.6
Unreasonable	15	5.2
Very unreasonable	15	5.2
Total	288	100

One of the factors that can determine real dedication and commitment of security personnel at work is remuneration 25% of respondents informed, according to the data on this table that their remuneration is very reasonable. 64.6% said it is “reasonable”. 5.2% respondents said it was

“unreasonable” while additional 5.2% remarked that it was “very unreasonable”. The data, by simple analysis suggested that security personnel in these polytechnics are “reasonably” remunerated going by the submission of 89.6% respondents.

Table 5: Adequacy of security personnel

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	107	35.3
A	111	36.6
UD	22	7.3
D	34	11.2
SD	29	9.6
Total	303	100

On whether or not, security personnel are adequate on these campuses, respondents were affirmative in their submissions. 71.92 Agreed that

there's adequacy of security personnel while 20.8% disagreed. 7.3% of them were undecided.

Table 6: Security challenges and needed facilities

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	99	32.5
A	103	32.5
UD	35	11.5
D	38	12.5
SD	30	9.8
Total	305	100

From the data presented above, it was submitted by respondents that security personnel on these campuses do not face serious challenges because facilities needed by students were available

and adequately provided. 66.3% toed this line of reasoning by strongly and merely agreeing to that submission, 11.5% were undecided while 22.3% held contrary opinions hence disagreeing.

Table 7: Security challenges in the face of laws and order

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	75	24.9
A	132	43.9
UD	20	6.6
D	32	10.6
SD	42	13.9
Total	303	100

Going by the views of majority of the respondents as presented on the table above, security personnel on these campuses of these polytechnics do not face serious challenges because

laws and orders exist and are properly maintained. This was the submission of 68.8% respondents. 6.6% were neutral while 24.5% held different opinions.

Table 8: Reduction in cult-related security challenges because of prompt report of security threatening issues.

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	91	31.1
A	111	37.9
UD	31	10.6
D	43	14.7
SD	17	5.8
Total	293	100

This table contains data which informed that cult related security challenges were on the decline because every student observes and report issues that can breach security promptly to

appropriate authorities. Majority of respondents 68% gave this hint. 10.6% were on the fence while 20.5% did not agree with the submission.

Table 9: Reduction in cult-related security challenged due to proper maintenance of laws and order

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	68	22.4
A	120	39.5
UD	30	9.9
D	49	16.1
SD	37	12.2
Total	304	100

This data above informed that there is a reduced cult-related security challenge on these campuses because of adequate maintenance of law and order. 61.9% agreed to this, while 28.3% did not agree. 9.9% were undecided.

Table 10: Facilitation of security operations through adequate channels of communication

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	23	7.6
A	27	8.9
UD	43	14.1
D	107	35.2
SD	104	34.2
Total	304	100

Majority of respondents (69.4%) disagreed strongly and merely to the proposition that “security personnel on these campuses do not face serious challenges because adequate channels of communication exist to facilitate security operations. 14.1% were undecided while 16.5%

agreed. With these submissions, it can be inferred that not only were communication channels that can facilitate security operations not existing, security personnel face serious challenges as a result of this.

Table 11: Reduced security challenges as a result of existing conflict resolutions mechanism

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	35	11.5
A	120	39.5
UD	41	13.5
D	60	19.8
SD	48	15.8
Total	303	100

Data on this table were pointers to the fact that in these institutions, there are conflicts resolutions mechanisms that do not make security personnel to face serious challenges. 51% of respondents gave this pointer when they affirmed

that security personnel on these campuses do not face serious challenges because of the existence of conflicts resolutions mechanism. 13.5% were undecided while 35.4% were of opposing opinions.

Table 12: Adequacy of availability of strategic intelligence gathering apparatus

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	40	14.3
A	95	33.9
UD	34	12.1
D	52	18.6
SD	59	21.1
Total	280	100

Respondents, according to data on this table, agreed that strategic intelligence gathering apparatus were available and adequate to facilitate security operations on these campuses. Holding on

to this views were 48.2% respondents. 12.2% were undecided while 39.7% did not agree.

Hypotheses Testing

H^0 : Availability and adequacy of facilities needed on the campus will not prevent serious security challenges on campuses.

Table 6 reproduced

Table 6: Security challenges and needed facilities

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	99	32.5
A	103	32.5
UD	35	11.5
D	38	12.5
SD	30	9.8
Total	305	100

From the data presented above, it was submitted by respondents that security personnel on these campuses do not face serious challenges because facilities needed on campus were available

and adequately provided. 66.3% toed this line of reasoning by strongly and merely agreeing to that submission, 11.5% were undecided while 22.3% held contrary opinions hence disagreeing.

O	E	$O - \sum$	$(O - \sum)^2$	$(O - \sum)^2 / E$
K99	60.4	38.6	1489.96	24.67
103	60.4	42.6	1814.76	30.05
35	60.4	-25.46	645.16	10.68
38	60.4	-22.4	501.76	8.31
30	60.4	-30.4	924.16	15.30
$\chi^2_{cal} = 8.01$				

with 4⁰ of freedom and 5% level significance, table $\chi^2 = 9.488$.

Decision rule: Accept H^0 if table $\chi^2 >$ the value χ^2 calculated otherwise

Since the value of χ^2 calculated (89.01) > TABLE χ^2 (9.488), H^0 should be rejected and H^1 should be accepted.

Therefore, decision:

Availability and adequacy of facilities needed on the campus will prevent security challenges on campuses of our polytechnics.

H^0 : Availability and adequacy of strategic intelligence gathering apparatus will not facilitate smooth security operations on campus.

Table 12 represented:

Table 12: Adequacy of availability of strategic intelligence gathering apparatus

Variables	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SA	40	14.3
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UD	34	12.1
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SD	59	21.1
Total	280	100

Respondents, according to data on this table, agreed that strategic intelligence gathering apparatus were available and adequate to facilitate

security operations on these campuses. Holding on to this views were 48.2% respondents. 12.2% were undecided while 39.7% did not agree.

Analysis

O	E	$O - \sum$	$(O - \sum)^2$	$(O - \sum)^2 / E$
40	56	-16	256	4.57

95	56	39	152.1	27.16	
34	56	-22	484	8.64	
	52	56	-4	16	0.28
59	56	03	09	0.16	

$\chi^2_{cal} = 40.81$

with 40 of freedom and 5% level of significance, table $\chi^2 = 9.488$.

Decision rule: Accept H^0 if table $\chi^2 >$ the value χ^2 calculated otherwise rejected it.

Since the value of χ^2 calculated (40.81) $>$ Table χ^2 (9.488), H^0 should be rejected and H^1 should be accepted.

Therefore, decision:

Availability and adequacy of strategic intelligence gathering will facilitate smooth security operations on the campuses of our polytechnics.

IV. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Availability and adequacy of facilities needed by students will prevent serious security challenges on the campuses of our polytechnics.
2. Availability and adequacy of strategic intelligence gathering apparatus will facilitate smooth security operation on the campuses of our polytechnics.
3. In-house security personnel amounted to 11.8% of the total security personnel of tertiary institution.
4. Security personnel on polytechnic campuses were adequate
5. In these polytechnics, laws and order were maintained hence aiding security operations.
6. Students observe and report issues on security matters promptly to appropriate authorities.
7. Channels of communications that can facilitate security operations were not existing, making the security personnel to face serious security challenges.
8. Conflicts Resolutions Mechanisms exists in these institutions hence preventing serious security personnel crises.

V. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that availability and adequacy of facilities needed on the campus will prevent serious security challenges on Polytechnic campuses and that availability and adequacy of strategic intelligence gathering tools will facilitate smooth security operations on the campuses of our polytechnics

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That management of tertiary institutions move with dynamic wave of science and technology to keep on acquiring facilities that are actually

needed to make the campus secured in all its ramifications.

2. Campus Security personnel should be exposed to local, national and international workshops and seminars where global trends in tertiary institutions, especially on security matters are usually exposed and discussed.
3. Native intelligence of Africa security mechanisms should also be tapped for holistic approach to this matter, after all, before the coming of western security technologies, Africa embraced the use of local charms, voodoo, and ritualisms to protect our various communities.
4. The effective use of CCTV should be encouraged to make surveillance of the entire campus easy from a centre created for that purpose.
5. Our communities should also equip crime prone spots and areas with such facilities and keep adequate records of security breaches which should always be made known to the stakeholders because they deserve to know.

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