# Town And Gown as Determinants of Security of Lives and Property: Implication for Peace and Security and Managerial Role in Universities in Nigeria

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Abstract- The objective of this study was to investigate town and gown as determinant of security of lives and property in Nigeria. The area of the study was Cross River State, Nigeria. The design adopted for the study was the survey design. The scope of this study covers universities in Cross River State. At the moment, there are four universities in Cross River State Nigeria. The target population was 7,745 comprising male and females. To arrive at the sample size, the Taro Yamane sampling technique was used to arrive at 380 which is 5 % of the population. The instrument for data collection for the study was the researcher structured questionnaire titled "the role of Town and Gown for security Questionnaire. The instrument was validated by three validates in measurement and evaluation. To ensure the degree of consistency of the instrument, a trial test was carried out involving 40 participants. Data obtained was analyse using Cronbach Alpha reliability procedure. The exercise produced reliability coefficient ranging from .78 to .89 respectively. Findings revealed that town and gown engagement, collaboration significantly influenced security of lives/property on campuses and host communities. Also, finding revealed that corporate social responsibility of university does not significantly influence security of lives and property. Based on the result, it was recommended among other things that collaborative engagement measures between university community and host communities should be encouraged so as to bring about peace, security, order and development in the area.

Indexed Terms- Town and Gown, Security, Peace, Lives and Property

## I. INTRODUCTION

Town and Gown is a term used to describe the interrelationship or collaboration between the university community and the host community. Robert-Okah (2013) stated that the relationship between town and gown is as old as the university system itself. The university as a corporate organisation does not exist in isolation, it requires the collaboration and good will of the host community to succeed. Similarly, the host community also need the support from the university community to survive. The relationship between town and gown can be characterized as a win-win or mutual relationship. This is because, whilst the host community provides land for siting the university, the university in the other hand sustains the economic and social life of the community through employment of its indigenes and provision of social services. The university system irrespective of where it is sited, creates a micro-economy for the host communities. Massey, et al (2014) stated that universities play a crucial and increasingly prominent role in shaping regional, social, and economic development.

Obviously, the synergy between tertiary institutions and host communities should attract development such as the construction of new buildings (hostels and hall of residence), markets and even the employment of indigenes of the host communities as both teaching and non-teaching staff. Bakwai (2013) asserts that the institution belongs to the community because it is established to meet the needs of the community. Thus, it is the community that supplies the manpower such as academic and non-academic staff, students and all categories of workers needed to for smooth running of school programmes. Ojo (2012) said that the siting of universities in some has further communities transformed those communities, it has facilitated the provision of infrastructure including industries and creation of new economic centres within the host communities. The benefits derived from a proper town and gown relationship can be mutually beneficial to both. The university gains through peaceful coexistence, security of lives and property while the host communities also gain by way of community services rendered by the s university, economic and social transformation in that communities.

The university is made of people from works of life, different backgrounds, tribes, culture and traditions. It is also made up of individuals such as parents, students, staff, management and a host of other people who transact businesses within the university and its environs. Activities within the university system sometimes results into conflicts which threatens the peace of the institution or the host communities. For instance, issues of industrial conflicts always ensue between management and industrial unions. There are also common practices in almost all the universities involving students protests which sometimes result to destruction of lives and property.

According to Robert-Okah (2013) Nigerian universities and host communities are increasingly engaging in collaborative engagements to tackle rising cases of insecurity within and outside the school environment. There is a common saying among people in Nigeria that the responsibility of providing security is everybody's business. This saying is even more relevant to the present discuss due to the current security challenges faced by universities across the country. Irrespective of location or type of university, there are common security challenges threatening lives, property and peaceful coexistence of universities and host communities. These include, cultism, sexual harassment, armed robbery, rape, looting and killing of persons. Abiodun-Oyebanji (2019) stated that the school is expected by the ghost community to play major role which ought to be shared by both parties. The essence of town and gown collaboration is to foster greater synergy in areas of security, peace,

harmony and development in the school and community. it is on this backdrop that the present study sought to investigate town and gown as determinant of security of lives and property: implication for peace and security in Nigeria

## II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The university is highly valued for its role in moulding future leaders and equipping citizen with relevant skills with which they can survive and contribute maximumly to national development. The essence of university education is to prepare individuals through proper instructions to acquire knowledge and skills that will help them to be productive in public and private sectors of the economy. Sadly, universities in Nigeria have been largely bedevilled with enormous challenges which has questioned its core existence. It is evidently clear that the capacity of universities in Nigeria to achieve their mandate of being the catalyst for technological advancement, growth and economic development in the society is under threat by incidences of insecurity. The continuous security challenges such as raping, kidnapping, robbery, mobbing, gang violence, cult activities in universities and surrounding host communities have in many instances halted teaching and learning activities, destroyed lives/properties and destroyed businesses/investments. These scenarios and many more have most time led to the termination of peoples dreams and aspirations and bought about frustration and anguish. It has also disrupted people's livelihood as the situation has further discouraged individuals from establishing businesses in the affected areas. It is against this backdrop that the present study sought to investigate the role of town and gown as determinant of security of lives/property: implication for peace and security in Nigeria.

#### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Security involves the protection from danger, threat, violence, fear or something that is capable of causing harm to a person or group of persons. It entails the unavailability of fear or threat to peaceful living. Mubita (2021) opined that providing a simple definition of security is actually very cumbersome. This is due to the fact that security implies different things to different people in different times and in different places. So, due to lack of a clear-cut unanimous meaning of security, there is a continuous debate on what actually constitute security and its dimensions. As it stance today, Nigeria is confronted with different forms of insecurity which ought to be tackled to foster peace and tranquillity. From time immemorial, it has been said that no nation can develop in an atmosphere of insecurity. Insecurity drives away potential investors and plunge the nation into economic hardship. Suffice to state that the current hunger and economic down tone witnessed in the country is attributed to issues of kidnapping, terrorism and criminal activities has threaten economic activities in almost all parts of the country.

Nigeria is plagued with diverse kinds of insecurity which threatens the peaceful coexistence of people in regions. Some of these security challenges include widespread incidences of violence among youths, the unending Fulani herders/farmers conflicts which has cause the death of some many people and the destruction of properties across the country, election related violence perpetuated by political thugs and some unscrupulous elements, drug trafficking, cult related violence etc. Okpe and Igwebuike (2019) examined the management of security challenges in federal universities in North-East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. The result showed that indeed there are different forms of security challenges confronting federal universities in North-Eastern part of Nigeria. These challenges include secret cult, Boko Haram insurgency, students' restiveness, violent protests, kidnapping etc. based on the finding, it was recommended that administrators in universities and the government should provide adequate funds, ensure free flow of information between universities and host communities for effective management of security related issues within and outside the school environment. In tackling security around campuses, a multidimensional approached have been advocated. These approached includes town and gown engagements, collaboration and engaging in corporate social responsibility within the host communities.

Mayfield (2001) stated that universities that indulge in community engagements seem to be better and able to integrate the teaching, research and

community service functions of the university. Also, they are able to perform their academic responsibilities to the society, Mayfield (2001) stated that, in a time of cost cutting and shrinking resources, integrating the university and the town as a unified entity makes sound economic sense. Bruning, McGrew and Cooper (2006) investigated communityschool engagement by exposing the gains it can bring to both the university and the host community. The study sought to further broaden the meaning of community engagements by showcasing what the community and the university stand to benefit such as cultural, intellectual, athletic and artistic benefits that accrued to the community by the university. Findings from the study revealed that community members who have participated in a campus organised event had a good impression about the university than those who did not. This implies that town and gown engagements can help create a better image about the school to the outside world. Also, town and gown engagements give the community members a sense of belonging which is needed in building confidence, trust and corporation between academic community and the host community. School-community collaboration in security entails actions intended to change the social conditions that are believed to sustain crime within university community.

Community-school collaboration involves the ability of host community and the institution to reduce crime in the areas. The collaboration often involves active participation of all stakeholders between the school and the host community. Arthur, Somuah and Mprah (2019) stated that universities are no longer safe as before. Also, Enang (2019) stressed that universities and host communities have in recent years been infested with all sorts of criminalities which has damaged the image of the university system in Nigeria. Abdullahi and Orukpe (2016) noted that cultism, theft, kidnapping, rape, phone snatching, violent conducts by students, vandalism and other related vices that poses security threat are much more prevalence in our universities and the host community. Arisukwu, et al (2020) the study investigated community participation in crime prevention. The universities and the communities where they are sited have become notorious with different kind of criminal activities. As a result of this, criminal activities universities have sought collaborative efforts from host communities and neighbourhoods in tacking the menace. The study presents the benefits of using qualitative and quantitative methods to collect data so as to unearth the potentials inherent in collaborative efforts in preventing crime and insecurity. Findings shows that high theft cases were prevalent in universities in Nigeria. Youths seem to constitute higher percentage of suspects perpetuating criminality in the area. The study recommended increased collaborative partnership in crime prevention and control in universities and their host communities Nigeria.

Ddungu and Edopu (2016) conducted a comparative analysis of corporate social responsibility in public and private universities in Uganda. The study is based on a cross-sectional survey involving 780 participants. Findings revealed that both public and private universities fall short of their corporate social responsibilities. Although both private and public universities involvement in CSR differ significantly such that it was much below in public universities than privately owned universities. Drawing from the literature and university community partnership models of higher education delivery, a case for the universities' greater involvement with their communities is made after which recommendations towards realization of this goal are highlighted.

# IV. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study was anchored on the Co-operative theory by Chester Barnard. The theory is relevant to the present study because it explains the relationship between school-community relationship. The Cooperative theory see organisations as networks of cooperation which encourages people to collaborate towards the achievement of a common goal. It is a fact that the school as an organisation cannot achieve its objectives without cooperating with its host community. The host community and the institutions must create a partnership that is mutually beneficial to both parties. The relationship should foster the promotion of peace and security within the town and gown.

The cooperative theory as postulated by Barnard suggest that people may be willing to accept command as authoritative in the condition that the

following four conditions hold: the individual can execute and is able to translate the communication, at the point of decision making, its believed that it is not erratic with organisational objectives and the individual is cable physically and mentally conform with the communication. The theory may seem applicable to the present study, however, there exit gaps in it operationality. In Cross River State, universities and host communities seem to be lacking in effective communication. This has further brought about lack of understanding and distrust between the institutions and the communities which has resulted to low cooperation between the parties. The current scenario has further hindered collaborative gestures that can foster peace, security and development within the communities where universities are sited. Thus, this study is an attempt to examine the significant role of town and gown relationship as determinant of security of lives and property in Nigeria.

## V. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The focus of the present study was to investigate town and gown as determinant of security of lives/property for peace and security. Specifically, the study sought:

- 1. To find out the influence of town and gown engagement on security of lives/property
- 2. To investigate the role of town and gown collaboration on security of lives/property
- 3. Examine the role of university corporate social responsibility on security of lives/property

# **Research Questions**

- 1. To what extent does town and gown engagement influence security of lives/property?
- 2. To what extent does town and gown collaboration influence security of lives/property?
- 3. To what extent does university corporate social responsibility influence security of lives/property?

# Hypotheses

- 1. Town and gown engagement does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities
- 2. Town and gown collaboration does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities

3. University corporate social responsibility does not significantly influence security of lives/property

# VI. METHOD

The objective of this study was to investigate town and gown as determinant of security of lives and property in Nigeria. The area of the study was Cross River State, Nigeria. The design adopted for the study was the survey design. The scope of this study covers universities in Cross River State. At the moment, there are four universities in Cross River State Nigeria. They are the University of Calabar, University of Cross River State, Authur Javis University and Havalah University in Ikom. Also, the study covers town and gown engagements, collaborations in security and university corporate social responsibility. The population of the study comprised all university staff and community leaders within the universities in the state. The state currently hosts four universities, of which two are public and two private universities. The target population was 7,745 comprising male and females. To arrive at the sample size, the Taro Yamane sampling technique was used to arrive at 380 which is 5 % of the population. Thereafter, proportionate and simple random sampling techniques were applied. The instrument for data collection for the study was the researcher structured questionnaire titled "the role of Town and Gown for security Questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 40 items which elicited respondents' demographic information and was used to assess the role of town and gown in surety of live and property. The instrument was validated by three validates in measurement and evaluation. To ensure the degree of consistency of the instrument, a trial test was carried out involving 40 participants. Data obtained was analyse using Cronbach Alpha reliability procedure. The exercise produced reliability coefficient ranging from .78 to .89 respectively.

#### VII. RESULT

Research Questions One To what extent does town and gown engagement influence security of lives/property?

Table 1: Simple Linear Regression for the extent to
which town and gown engagement influence security
of lives/property in universities

	1	1 1		
Variables	R	RSquar	Adjusted	St Err
		e	R	of Est
Town and				
gown				
engagement				
	.141	.20	.17	8.4366
				4
Security of				
lives/proper				
ty				

Entries in Table 1 reports the extent to which town and gown engagements influence security of lives/property of federal universities. The R coefficient (.141) is the linear correlation (regression) between town and gown engagement and security of lives/property in universities. The coefficient of determination (.020) shows that town and gown engagements contributed to (20%) variation in security of lives/property in universities. This result is expected due to the fact that meaningful engagements between host communities and institutions are very important.

#### Research Questions Two

To what extent does town and gown collaboration influence security of lives/property?

Table 2: Simple Linear Regression for the extent to
which town and gown influence security of
lives/property in universities of Nigeria

-	1 2		U	
Variables		R	Adjusted	St Err
	R	Square	R	of Est
Town and gown collaboration				
	.256	.65	.63	8.23873
Security of				
lives/property				

Entries in Table 2 report the extent to which town and gown collaboration influence security of lives/property in universities. The R coefficient (.256) is the linear correlation (regression) between

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town and gown collaboration and security of lives/property in universities. The coefficient of determination (.065) shows that town and gown collaboration contributed to (65%) variation in security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria. This result is expected due to the fact that school – host community collaboration is very important in fostering peace and development. Such collaboration can help both parties to corporate in areas of development and security.

#### Research Questions Three

To what extent does university corporate social responsibility influence security of lives/property?

Table 3: Simple Linear Regression for the extent to
which corporate social responsibility influence
security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria

Variables	R	R	Adjusted	St Err
		Square	R	of Est
Universities				
CSR				
	.067	.005	.002	8.60247
Security of				
lives/property				

Entries in Table 3 report the extent to which universities CSR influence security of lives/property in universities. The R coefficient (.067) is the linear correlation (regression) between universities CSR and security of lives/property in universities. The coefficient of determination (.005) shows that Universities CSR contributed to (0.5%) variation in security of lives/property in federal universities in South-West, Nigeria.

#### Hypotheses One

Town and gown engagement does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities

Table 4: Simple Linear regression of the influence
town and gown engagement on security of
lives/property in universities

lives/property in universities							
Varia	Sourc	Sums	d	Me	F-	F-	Deci
bles	es of	of	f	ans	Ca	C	sion
	Varia	Squa		Squ	1	rit	at
	tion	res		ares			P<.0
							5
T&G	Regre	546.3	1	546.	7.	3.	
engag	ssion	02	3	302	67	8	Sign
ement	Resid	3690	7		5	6	
Securi	ue	4.898	8	71.1			
ty of	Total	2745	3	77			
lives		1.200	7				
and			9				
proper							
ty							

\*p<.05 significant

The result in Table 4 shows that the calculated Fvalue of 7.675 is greater than the critical F-value of 3.86 at .05 level of significance with 1 and 378 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis one which states that town and gown engagement does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. The result means that town and gown engagement with host communities significantly influenced security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria.

#### Hypotheses Two

Town and gown collaboration does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities

Table 5: Simple Linear regression of the relationship between town and gown collaboration and security of lives/property of federal universities

inves/property of federal universities								
Varia	Sour	Sum	D	Mea	F-	F-	Dec	
bles	ces	s of	f	ns	Cal	C	isio	
	of	Squa		Squ		rit	n at	
	Varia	res		ares			P<.	
	tion						05	
Town	Regr	1793	1	179	26.	3.		
and	essio	.826	3	3.82	42	8	Sig	
gown	n	2565	7	6	8	6	n.	
collab	Resid	7.37	8					
oratio	ue	8	3	67.8				

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n	Total	2745	7	77		
Securi		1.20	9			
ty of		0				
lives						
and						
proper						
ty						

\*p<.05 significant

The result in Table 5 shows that the calculated F-value of 26.428 is greater than the critical F-value of 3.86 at .05 level of significance with 1 and 378 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis two which states that town and gown collaboration does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. The result means that town and gown collaboration with host communities significantly influence security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria.

#### Hypotheses Three

University corporate social responsibility does not significantly influence security of lives/property

Table 6: Simple Linear regression of the relationship between Job rotation and security of lives/property of federal universities

icucial universities							
Variab	Sourc	Sums	d	Me	F-	F-	Dec
les	es of	of	f	ans	Ca	С	isio
	Varia	Squa		Squ	1	rit	n at
	tion	res		ares			P<.0
							5
CSR	Regr		1	124	1.	3.	
	essio	124.	3	.82	72	8	Not
Securit	n	827	7	7	7	6	sign
y of	Resid	2732	8				
lives/p	ue	6.37	3	72.			
roperty	Total	3	7	292			
		2745	9				
		1.20					
		0					

\*p<.05 significant

The result in Table 6 shows that the calculated F-value of 1.727 lower than the critical F-value of 3.86 at .05 level of significance with 1 and 378 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis three

which states that corporate social responsibility does not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria is retained. The result means that corporate social responsibility of universities to host communities did not significantly influence security of lives/property in universities of Nigeria,

# VIII. DISCUSSION

The result of the first hypothesis was found to be significant. This implies that town and gown engagements significantly influence security of lives/properties in universities and surrounding communities. This result further lends credence to the fact that school-community engagement is very important in maintaining peace and security on campuses. Security they say everybody's business and as such, engaging the community on security related issues will be beneficial to both parties. Mayfield (2001) stated that universities that indulge in community engagements are likely to be better and able to integrate the teaching, research and service functions effectively. community Community-school collaboration involves the ability of host community and the institution to reduce crime rate in the areas. The collaboration often involves active participation of all stakeholders between the school and the host community.

The result corroborates with Arisukwu, et al (2020) who in a similar study investigated community participation in crime prevention. Findings shows that high theft cases were prevalent in universities in Nigeria. Youths seem to constitute higher percentage of suspects perpetuating criminality in the area. The study recommended increased collaborative partnership in crime prevention and control in universities and their host communities Nigeria. Arthur, Somuah and Mprah (2019) stated that universities are no longer safe as before. Also, Enang (2019)stressed that universities and host communities have in recent years been infested with all sorts of criminalities which has damaged the image of the university system in Nigeria. Abdullahi and Orukpe (2016) noted that cultism, theft, kidnapping, rape, phone snatching, violent conducts by students, vandalism and other related vices that poses security threat are much more prevalence in

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our universities and the host community. Therefore, universities must synergize with the host communities to formulate plans that will address the issue of insecurity so as to guaranty safety.

The result of the third hypothesis was not significant. This result is contrary to the finding of Ddungu and Edopu (2016) who conducted a comparative analysis of corporate social responsibility in public and private universities in Uganda. Findings revealed that both public and private universities fall short of their corporate social responsibilities. Although both private and public universities involvement in CSR differ significantly such that it was much below in public universities than privately owned universities. From available literature universities and communities' partnership in providing infrastructure is low. In fact, most universities in Nigeria have totally abandon their responsibilities to their host community thereby stirring anger and frustration which must time result in violent protests among youths of the host communities.

A mutual and beneficial relationship between the universities and their host communities should lead to peace, stability, security and development. As the host communities benefit from the universities through economic advances, social development and community services provided by the institutions, community in the hand ensures peace and security around the area to foster a conducive environment for academic activities. The study concluded that the relationship between town and gown is very crucial for the sustainability of peace and security of lives and property within and outside the school environment.

The result corroborates with the finding of Bruning, McGrew and Cooper (2006) who investigated community-school engagement by exploring the benefits it brings to both the university and the host community. The study sought to further broaden the meaning of community engagements by showcasing what the community and the university stand to benefit such as cultural, intellectual, athletic and artistic benefits that accrued to the community by the university. Findings from the study revealed that community members who have participated in a campus organised event had a good impression about the university than those who did not. The implication of the finding is that town and gown engagements can help create a better image about the school to the outside world.

Furthermore, town and gown engagements give the community members a sense of belonging which is needed in building confidence, trust and corporation between academic community and the host community. The second hypothesis was also found to be significant. This means that town and gown collaboration significantly influence security of lives and property on campus and within the host communities. This result is unconnected with the fact that school-community collaboration is very important in the development of institution and the community. Through community-school host collaboration, far reaching policies can be formulated that brining about peace, safety and progress

#### CONCLUSION

The relationship between the universities and their host communities is a mutual relationship that ought to benefit both parties. Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that for tertiary institutions to develop, there is need for corporation with host communities in terms of corroboration, engagement and corporate social responsibility. This synergy when properly management may foster peace, security and development.

#### Implications

Town and gown relationship have been proven to have far reaching implications for school stability, development. and Through schoolsecurity community engagements awareness about happenings within the campus is discussed with members of the communities and possible solution are also proffered. For instance, one of the common challenges facing universities across Nigeria is the problem of encroachment of land. Through community engagement community members can assist school in curbing the trend. Also, the issue of school community collaboration is very crucial to the development of university and the community. both school and community stand a chance of benefiting immensely in a well-planned collaborative measure. Collaboration in can be done through information

sharing, surveillance, crime reporting, security meetings, town hall meetings and project initiation. Lastly, globally one of the ways organisations gives back to the society is through corporate social responsibility. Through this medium the university reaches out to the community though projects or social services that have direct bearing on the community. this gesture will build trust, confidence and harmony between the university and the host community.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings, the study recommended that

- 1. The relationship between the universities and their host communities be strengthen to foster fruitful engagement that will promote security, peace and development in the area
- 2. Collaborate efforts such as security meetings, surveillance, information gathering and crime reporting should be encouraged between universities and host communities
- 3. Corporate social responsibility gives the communities sense of belonging and as such, universities should prioritize their corporate responsibilities to areas that are highly beneficial to the host communities
- 4. Programmes and policies of the universities should be planned in such a way that it reflect the immediate needs of the host communities.

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