

Strategies for Improving Security Situation in Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochukwu

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Abstract- *Security situation in Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu is deterioration day by day. To proper solution to security issues, the researchers constructed a 36-item questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated by three experts and its reliability was found to be 0.87. Copies of the validated questionnaire were administered to 32 security and admin staff of the College. The responses of the staff were then analysed using mean and standard deviations. The result of the analysis revealed the strategies for improving security situation in Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu. Based on the findings of the study, the paper recommended among others things that security personnel should be equipped with modern security gadgets (both hardware and software, Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV) should be installed in the College, the College management should maximize the use of informants in the College, there should be proper record for taking and hand over of duty among security personnel and Students should report any suspicious movement of people to the security personnel.*

Index Terms- *Strategies, Security, Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu*

I. INTRODUCTION

Security is simply defined as a state of one being free from danger or threat. The term security is also applied to non-living things and other entities. In this sense, security is a generic term that refers to a state of a person, property, organization, or country free or protected from undesirables such as damage, injury, dangers, fear, crimes, attacks and threats. Afolabi (2015) defined security as a term that “has to do with the presence of peace, safety, gladness and the

protection of human and physical resources or absence of crisis or threats to human dignity, all of which facilitate development and progress of any human society” Security like other concepts has dimensions. The dimensions include; economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, national security, personal security, community security, human security, psychological security, social security, political security (Hussein, Gnisci & Wanjiru, 2004). In nutshell, security connotes protection against undesirables.

Schools are established to prepare students various occupations and useful living in society. Schools therefore, need to be safe and conducive for students to achieve school objectives. Schools are open systems and as such have being exposed to many undesirable events and behaviours such as drug addiction, stealing, cultism, riots and violence among others (Ozmena, Durb & Akgulc, 2010). In other words, Universities, Colleges and schools experience one form of crime or the other. Criminal homicide, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, bag or phone snatching, motor vehicle theft, hate crimes, and arson are some examples of crimes in tertiary educational institutions. Schools must therefore develop strategies to deal with insecurity issues in order to achieve its objectives.

Scholars and studies have suggested ways of mitigating security problems in schools. These according to Schneider (2008) include; 1) creating school wide prevention and intervention strategies, 2) school policies and legal issues supporting safe schools, 3) ensuring quality school facilities and security technologies and 4) fostering school, family and community involvement. Furthermore, educational institutions are also taking action to provide better resident housing security, provide

more police presence on campus, provide more security information available to students, offer self-defense classes to students, provide more safety phones on campus, and offer police escorts to students on campus after dark. In addition to administration-based initiatives, students should also take an active role in the participation and promotion of the safety of their communities (Carrico, 2016). Provision of perimeter fencing, security lighting, closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems and periodic training of security personnel may also go a long way in improving security situation in schools.

Problem Statement/Justification

The Management of Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu has put in place various security measures to secure both lives and properties of staff, students and visitors. However, security breaches occur from time to time. Cases of stealing of College properties are the order of the day. In fact almost all the six schools in the college have lost properties to thieves. Students' demonstrations and violence occur from time to time. The College has witnessed sexual harassments against female students. All these undesirable happenings hinder smooth operation of the College as well as teaching and learning. Hence, the researchers set out to identify strategies that will improve security situation in Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu (ASCETA).

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to identify the strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA. The specific objectives of the study are to identify the strategies to be adopted by the:

1. Management to improve security situation in ASCETA
2. Security personnel to improve security situation in ASCETA
3. Students to improve security situation in ASCETA

Research Questions

Three research questions were formulated to guide the study. The three research questions are:

1. What are the management strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA?
2. What are the security personnel strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA?
3. What are the students' strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section presents some sources of insecurity in Nigerian tertiary institutions and various recommendations for improving security situation in tertiary institutions. The section also presents empirical studies on the security challenges and solutions in schools.

Sources of Insecurity in Nigerian Tertiary institutions

Alemika (Undated) listed the following as sources of insecurity in Nigerian tertiary educational Institutions”

1. Widespread insecurity in the society, including political and ethno-religious violence; in many cases, university lecturers provide ideological justifications for violence by and among their ethnic groups;
2. Decline in intellectual discourse and commitment led to the widespread activities of uncivil ethnic, religious and cult groups on the campuses through which conflicts and violence are perpetrated;
3. Decline in the quality of hostels facilities, administration and relationships foster indiscipline and involvement of students in deviant and criminal conducts
4. Off- residence by majority of the students facilitates easy infiltration of campuses by criminals and extremists to perpetrate crimes and terrorist attacks, indoctrinate and recruit students and staffs
5. Erosion of virtues of honesty, trustworthiness, industry and excellence and the increasing emphasis on vices of corruption and acquisition of wealth through crime influence the attitudes

and behaviours of students resulting in the involvement and arrests of university students for robbery, trafficking in arms and drugs, cyber crimes, and cult violence

6. Preponderance of admission of students through influence peddling, corruption, racketeering and primordial considerations rather than merit resulted in majority of students lacking the necessary discipline, capacity and motivation for diligent study in the university and turning to crime and cult
7. Rising tide of ethnic and religious bigotry in society that undermines fairness, scholarship, harmony, productivity, accountability, discipline and effective administration on the campuses causes conflicts
8. Excessive admission and overcrowding of lecture rooms, libraries and hostels engender grievances and conflicts
9. Frequent increases and multiple levies without adequate consultation and corresponding services by the universities
10. Extreme pressure on staffs and students to conclude lectures, grade papers and release result in spite of requisite quantity and quality of lecturers, classrooms, offices, library spaces, relevant journals and books, internet services, office equipment and stationery and electricity supply fuel hostility among staff and between academic staff union and university administration
11. Ineffective security services on the campuses
12. Violent and non-violent disruption of activities by student and staff unions, often compounded by impunity and absence of efficient, accountable and responsive university management;
13. Academic incest – excessive recruitment of former students and their family members undermine quality, innovation, discipline and create a system of patronage that fuel conflict
14. Failure of university administration to promptly, transparently and seriously address grievances by staffs and students unions
15. Ethnic and religious intolerance and violence compounded by nepotism and other primordial considerations by university administration in recruitment, appointment and promotion, student admissions, and discipline of staff and students;

16. Proliferation of ethnic and religious associations and cults on the campuses without effective security surveillance and control foster inter-group conflict
17. Failure of university administration to promptly, transparently and seriously address grievances by staffs and students unions
18. Usurpation of the powers of the statutory organs of the university by non-statutory committees and appointed officials at various levels resulting in arbitrary and autocratic decisions

Recommendations for Improving Security in Schools

HEFCE (2002) in a study on management of security services in higher education recommends as follows:

- developing a strategy that takes account of:
 - an assessment of risks to the institution's activities, students, staff and visitors
 - the need to balance technology and other resources
 - the overlap with other areas such as estates, space management, event management and IT
 - the implementation of operational plans and budgets
 - legislation and good practice guidelines
- establishing clear channels of communication, so that security issues are considered at the highest level within the institution
- defining management responsibility for security
- introducing service standards for internal and external providers
- providing staff training
- collecting and disseminating management statistics to inform decision making, and publishing an annual security report
- documenting all security procedures (including risk assessment, and major emergencies management plans)
- conducting periodic reviews to support continuous improvement for security and allied support services
- working with other institutions and other agencies to pool ideas and resources.

Empirical Studies on Security in Educational Institutions

Ozmena, Durb and Akgulc (2010) conducted a study to determine the security problems experienced at schools; and to develop recommendations for tackling them. Three secondary schools, characterized with the most severe security problems, were taken into the research coverage; and 22 people were interviewed by asking open ended questions. The data were analyzed by qualitative techniques. The obtained results revealed that there were various problem sources threatening school security; the school policies and decisions were insufficient; and the school support services were not sufficient and effective as well. Some recommendations such as working collaboratively with the public and private institutions; developing emergency plans; training of the academic staff and the personnel were made.

Oladipo, Awoyinfa and Adefarakan (2018) conducted a study that examined the institutional critical factors such as location, climate, facilities and culture as they relate to security of personnel (staff and students) in the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Being a case study, it adopted the descriptive survey research design. The population comprised 2,875 staff and 25,095 students selected from 11 faculties and the College of Medicine of the University, while the sample for the study was a total of 300 staff and 2,500 students of the University. Thus, a total of 2,800 participants were selected using stratified random sampling technique. A self-constructed modified Likert scale type questionnaire was used for data collection. The study revealed that there exists a strong relationship between the identified institutional factors and security of personnel in the University. The study recommends that university curriculum should be reviewed to include compulsory courses in security and crime prevention, provision of adequate modern security facilities and, capacity building for security personnel, and increase in budgetary allocation for security in order to guarantee safety and security of personnel as well as enhanced quality of university output.

Owusu, Akoto and Abnory (2016) carried out a study on perceptions of students about safety and security issues in University of Cape Coast (UCC). The

researchers used survey design to obtain a comprehensive picture of students' perceptions about their safety and security on campus. The findings of the showed that students are not satisfied with the overall safety and security on campus particularly in the evenings. The students suggested that building more halls of residence, improving the lighting system on campus, and installing emergency phones across campus, intensifying security presence on campus as well as controlling the number of people that enter the campus are sure ways of ensuring that UCC was safer.

III. MATERIALS AND METHOD

This research was carried out under the following headings: design of the study, area of the study, population for the study, sample and sampling technique instrument for data collection, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

Design of the study

Survey research design was used for the study. Such design enabled the researchers to collect data on the strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA.

Area and Population of the Study

The study was conducted in ASCETA. The population of the study consisted of 60 respondents; 40 management staff, and 20 security personnel.

Sample and Sampling Technique

Proportionate sampling technique was used for the study. A sample size of 32 staff was drawn from the population of 60 staff from various schools and units using proportionate sampling technique.

Instrument for data collection

Structured questionnaire tagged Campus Security Questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. It consisted of four sections; A, B, and D. Section A is for respondent's personal data. Sections B, C and D on the other hand is for illiciting information from respondents on strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA. The questionnaire was subjected to both face and content validity scrutiny. The reliability of the questionnaire using Cronbach alpha was found to be 0.87.

Method of Data Collection

The researchers administer the copies of the questionnaire directly to the respondents. After one week, the researchers collected back the filled copies of the questionnaires.

situation in ASCETA. Similarly, any item with mean value of less than 2.50 was considered as not a strategy for improving security situation in ASCETA.

IV. RESULTS

Method of Data Analysis

Mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the data collected from the questionnaire. Any item with cut off mean value of 2.50 and above was considered as a strategy for improving security

Research Question 1

What are the management strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA?

Table 1: Means and Standard Deviations of the responses of Security Personnel and Admin Staff on the Management Strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA
N= 32

S/N	Item Statement	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remark
	Equipping security personnel with modern security gadgets(both hardware and software)	3.75	0.51	Agree
	Organising periodic capacity building training for security personnel on modern security techniques and use of modern security gadgets	3.59	0.56	Agree
	Installation of Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV)	3.66	0.48	Agree
	Periodic recruitment of security personnel to fill vacancies	3.11	0.86	Agree
	Payment of special allowances to security personnel	3.50	0.72	Agree
	Regular promotion of security personnel	3.41	0.61	Agree
	Fencing of the entire College	3.75	0.44	Agree
	Asking security personnel to pay for any item lost under their care	3.22	0.75	Agree
	Strengthening the supervision unit within the security department	3.76	0.61	Agree
	Creating informant unit within the security department	2.94	0.18	Agree
	Installing fire alarm system in all the buildings within the College	3.28	0.77	Agree
	Setting of committee on bush burning in the College	2.91	0.99	Agree
	Paying of Unscheduled visit by the Provost to security personnel duty posts	3.19	0.78	Agree
	Provision of more solar street lights in the College	3.81	0.40	Agree
	Training/retraining of security personnel	3.69	0.54	Agree
	Introduction of ID card for student and name tag for visitors for easy identification	3.06	0.56	Agree
	Setting up a disciplinary committee to punish defaulting security personnel	3.38	0.49	Agree
	Provision of good locks for all the blocks housing important documents, equipment/keys	3.59	0.61	Agree

N=Number of respondent SD=Standard Deviation $\bar{X}$ =Mean

Data from table 1 one above shows the responses of staff concerning management strategies to improve security situation in ASCETA. Since the mean values of all the items in the table are more than the cut off point of 2.50, it implies that all the items represent

management strategies to be adopted to improve security situation in ASCETA. Table 1 also shows that all the items in the table had standard deviations of lower values. This suggests that respondents are close in their opinions over the items.

Research Question 2

What are the security personnel strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA?

Table 2: Means and Standard Deviations of the responses of Security Personnel and Admin Staff on the security Personnel Strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA

N= 32

S/N	Item Statement	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remark
	Maximizing the use of informants in the College	3.28	1.32	Agree
	Use of whistles as one of the means of communication	3.31	0.78	Agree
	Reporting any security personnel absent on duty	3.34	0.70	Agree
	Checking car boots of anybody leaving the College	3.51	0.67	Agree
	Introduction of tag system within the security system of the College	3.13	0.79	Agree
	Introduction of staff-security personnel security committee	3.13	0.79	Agree
	Sending of daily security report to the Provost of the College	3.06	0.95	Agree
	Strengthening the supervision of security personnel within the security department	3.53	0.10	Agree
	Creating a special unit within the security outfit to monitor cult activities within the College	3.50	0.82	Agree
	Profiling of any building personnel working in the College	3.44	0.76	Agree
	College security personnel collaborating with outside security personnel such as Police, Civil defense personnel and local vigilante groups	3.69	0.47	Agree
	Security personnel through informant students monitor inciting utterances of lecturers	3.09	0.82	Agree
	Security personnel through informant students monitor inciting utterances of students	2.91	0.82	Agree
	Identification of plash points within the College (ie potential meeting points of cultists and addict)	3.25	0.88	Agree
	Creation of more security post/bits to enhanced security coverage	3.63	0.49	Agree
	There shall be proper record for taking and hand over of duty among security personnel	3.75	0.51	Agree

N=Number of respondent SD=Standard Deviation $\bar{X}$ =Mean

Table 2 shows that all the items had mean values of more than the cutoff point of 2.50. This suggests that respondents agree that these items represent security personnel strategies to be adopted to improve security situation in ASCETA. Concerning the small values of the items' standard deviations, they show that respondents are very close in their opinions concerning all the items in the table.

Research Question 3

What are the students' strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA?

Table 3: Means and Standard Deviations of the responses of Security Personnel and Admin Staff on the Students Strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA
N= 32

S/N	Item Statement	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remark
	Students reporting any suspicious movement of people to the security personnel	3.69	0.59	Agree
	Training of female students on how to protect themselves against rape	3.31	0.69	Agree
	Introduction of Students-security personnel security committee	3.19	1.18	Agree
	Students reporting any suspicious student thieves to the security personnel	3.69	0.47	Agree
	Introduction of student security committee within all the hostels in the College	3.22	0.87	Agree
	Introduction of student fire committee within all the hostels in the College	3.16	0.95	Agree

N=Number of respondent SD=Standard Deviation $\bar{X}$ =Mean

From table 3, one can clearly see that all the items had mean values of more than the cutoff point of 2.50. This implies that the respondents agree that the items represent the students' strategies to be adopted to improve security situation in ASCETA.

Furthermore, the small values of the standard deviations of the items indicated that the opinions of the respondents are very close.

V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study first determined the managerial strategies to be adopted to improve security situation in ASCETA. Such strategies include equipping security personnel with modern security gadgets, the purchase of Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTV) and training/retraining of security personnel among others. The first finding is in line with the findings of Oladipo, Awoyinfa and Adefarakan (2018). The last finding on the other hand corroborates the finding of Ozmena, Durb and Akgulc (2010). On the security personnel strategies, the study identifies the following strategies among others; asking security personnel to pay for any item lost under their care, security maximize the use of informants in the College and there should be proper record for taking and hand over of duty among security personnel. Furthermore, the study found students strategies for improving security situation in ASCETA. Such students' strategies among others include . students report any suspicious movement of people to the security personnel, training of female students on how to protect themselves against rape and having students-

security personnel security committee. The last finding is in line with the suggestions made by

Carrico (2016) while others are not found in any of the literature reviewed.

VI. CONCLUSION

Security is everybody's business. In this sense, management, staff and students of Abia State College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu are part and parcel of security architecture of the College. To find out strategies for improving security situation in the College, a 40-item questionnaire reflecting the contribution of management, staff and students towards improving security situation in the College was designed, constructed and validated. The copies of the validated questionnaire were administered to 32 staff of the College. The data collected from the questionnaire were then analysed. The result of the analysis revealed the strategies to improve security situation in the College. With the identified strategies in place in the College, security situation in the College will be improved.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. Security personnel should be equipped with modern security gadgets (both hardware and software).

2. Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV) should be installed in the College.
3. Security personnel should be forced to pay for any item lost under their care.
4. The College management should maximize the use of informants in the College.
5. There should be proper record for taking and hand over of duty among security personnel.
6. Students should report any suspicious movement of people to the security personnel.
7. The College management should introduce student- security committee within all the hostels in the College.

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