

Assessment of security challenges at Bayero University Kano staff residential quarters

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Abstract:

Bayero University staff residential quarters are essential components of the university's infrastructure, providing accommodation for academic and administrative staff. Ensuring the security of these quarters is paramount to safeguarding the well-being and productivity of the university community. Bayero University staff residential quarters face a significant security challenge that threatens the safety and well-being of its residents. These challenges range from theft and burglary, creating a sense of insecurity among the staff members residing in these quarters. Several factors contribute to the security challenges at Bayero University staff residential quarters. The study aims to identify the securities challenges in Bayero University Kano Staff Quarters, also to ascertain the impact of insecurity challenges on the staff living at the residential quarters and lastly to identify the measures taken by Bayero University Kano in ensuring the safety and security of staff living at the resident quarters. Questionnaires were used as the main instrument of data collection. The sample frame for this study are the residents of the staff quarters both old and new campuses. Simple random sampling was used as sampling technique. The data gathered from the field was analysed using frequency, percentages and mean ranking. Findings indicate that there have been numerous cases of burglary, theft, and other security breaches in the staff quarters, leading to concerns among the residents about their safety and security. Findings also indicates that the staff quarters are vulnerable to security threats due to inadequate security measures, lack of proper lighting, and poor surveillance systems. The study recommends that Installation of surveillance cameras and improving lighting in staff quarters will enhance surveillance and deter criminal activities, also increasing the number of security personnel and providing regular training on modern security techniques and community policing would also assist in curbing these criminal activities.

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1. Introduction

The University is a learning organisation and as such attracts students, staff and other stakeholders who have one thing or the other to carry out in the university environment. Hence, the issue of security comes to play [1]. The university exists as a complex organization with heterogeneous identity comprising people from different backgrounds with distinct views and divergent goals that make it susceptible to varied security threats [2]. Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity in schools and the society at large. No wonder national security has become an issue for government. Security is a first order or necessary precondition for the development of human beings and production of manpower needs in schools for the development of the society [3, 4, 5].

According to Abubakar [6] the high level of insecurity in Nigeria has become a social problem and a hydra-headed monster that cannot be over-emphasised because of its far-reaching implications and direct consequences on

education, the economy and society in general. Most worrisome is the emerging new forms of insecurity challenges in contemporary Nigeria which have taken a disturbing dimension to the extent that it has almost crippled the various sectors, especially the education sector in Nigeria [7]. Insecurity has affected the education sector in Nigeria; the persistent security challenges have affected academic works, destroyed entrepreneurial training centres, thereby killing dreams and ideas of successful ventures [8]. Insecurity also disrupts job creation as people are discouraged from establishing business venture in some areas of the country thus rendering many graduates idle and forcing them to resort to crimes as means of generating income [2, 8].

In the wake of terrorist attacks in Nigeria, particularly in the north, parents and guardians are anxious for the safety of their children and wards. Boko Haram and Bandits terrorist gangs are on the rampage, assaulting, kidnapping, and bombing public sites, including schools. Adults (men and women), affluent and poor residents (boys

and girls), schoolchildren, and teachers are all abducted. Even assemblies at schools were not spared. Bombs were detonated at or near school assemblies. In the north-eastern area of Nigeria, education has been badly interrupted, particularly due to the routine murder and kidnapping of innocent pupils. Such occurrences undoubtedly instilled terror in the minds of students, instructors, and parents, leading to the withdrawal of kids from schools or the outright closure of schools by the government or school authorities for extended periods of time [9].

Essentially, tertiary educational level in Nigeria constitutes academic community of conventional and specialised institutions, primarily set up to pursue symbiotic mandates for national development, achievement of which is directly contingent on the quality instructional and non-instructional facilities [10]. On a specific note, very essential among the non-instructional facility installations in any tertiary institution is the provision of security facilities meant to ensure and sustain a safe school. Provision of security facilities is as critical as their continuous assessment to achieve optimal delivery against threat and threat tendencies in any school system. Emphatically, a strict regard for continuously assessed security facilities claims weightier impacts on the internal administrative efficiency of tertiary institutions with a view to ensuring and sustaining threat-free academic environment [7, 11]. Globally, there is a rising wave of insecurity and the universities are not spared from this problem. The rising wave of insecurity in universities has been a source of great concern recently. In the 60s, 70s and up to 80s, educational environments were relatively peaceful for teaching-learning process to go on without hindrance. However, the situation has changed since in the 90s. Recent happenings have shown that university environments are not so safe for the students and for the school personnel any more due to some threatening security challenges [2]. Unfortunately, and as a part of the larger Nigerian nation with her growing burden of crime and insecurity, this cherished innocence and sanity of our schools are fast being displaced by fear and uncertainty. Indeed, every tier of the educational system in Nigeria has had to put up with different degrees of insecurity and incidents of crime in the recent past. From kidnapping in primary and secondary schools through to cult violence, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft, bullying and the likes, student's safety in our schools has certainly become a major concern at the individual, family, school, community, state and national levels. For the students, a poor perception of campus safety diminishes the level of concentration and adversely impacts academic performance [12, 13, 14].

Safety on our campuses has always been a matter of concern to parents, students and other stakeholders in the education sector, this is ostensibly so because the university campus is not in an academic bubble that repels potential criminals. It is instead, a part of the greater community in which it lies, from large metropolitan areas to small rural communities. For Nigeria, concerns about school safety became much more justified given the growing spate of attacks and criminal invasions of

educational institutions across the country. Our campuses are also not alien to several other forms of criminal victimisation including burglary, theft, robbery and bullying. It is thus against this backdrop that university administrators must make progressive efforts in keeping the campus safe [12, 15].

The insecurity threat has become a pain in the neck of the country and has engulfed all sectors of the economy. Lecturers do not have students to lecture again, students do not have schools to attend again. Higher education is regarded as the highest peak of education. It is the education that is anchored on teaching, research and community services. Higher education is designed to operate in a peaceful environment. The objectives of higher education can only be realized in a peaceful and safe environment [16, 11]. Unfortunately, higher institutions have been affected by the insecurity challenges facing the country. Insecurity continues to threaten basic school, secondary schools and higher education in Nigeria to the extent that university managers, lecturers and students have all got their pains from the insecurity problem in the country [17].

University education is the education received after secondary school education in Nigeria. It is highly valued as it is a place where future leaders and technical manpower are developed for economic growth and development of Nigerian society. University education prepares people through teaching and learning for acquisition of knowledge and skills for job performance in civil service, business organisations, private enterprises and corporations as well as individual enterprises. Unfortunately, today university education in Nigeria has largely been of a mixed fortune. It is observable that the ability of universities to act as strong tools for growth and development is being threatened, more than ever before, by the problem of insecurity [3, 19].

According to Okoye and Nwaka-Nwandu [20], security measure assesses the vulnerability of risk and to introduce techniques and measures at schools, in order to create a stable, fairly predictable environment in which individuals may move freely. Security measures are approaches that can be adopted to protect and manage school violence, reduce security risks, and ensure that the school environment is safe for learning [21]. These measures are functional and operational methods that make schools free from crimes, threats and risks. It enhances the conduciveness of school to make teaching and learning process more effective. Furthermore, Ogunode, *et al.* [21] put it succinctly by defining security as the absence of insecurity as a result of actions of law enforcement agencies. He further stressed that security was understood to be the job of the defence force of the national frontiers and of the police inside the country. Such perception sums up security to be equal to a system of law-and-order maintenance.

However, he emphasized that the dynamics of our society has since altered that configuration of security to now include consideration for societal generated crises such as riots, demonstrations, secret cult-related criminal acts, terrorism, drug trafficking, intra and inter-ethnic strife, religious intolerance, advanced fee fraud, anti-government

campaigns, armed robberies, hijack, kidnapping and a host of others that threaten lives and properties and indeed the peace and tranquillity of man and society [8, 21].

Every university has a responsibility to protect itself, the students, staff and other customers who visit the University for One Form of transaction or the other, from all forms of danger. Yeboah, *et al.* [22] identified the responsibility of all schools to include, giving adequate safety and security against disasters, accidents, injuries, as well as, prepare proactive plans that investigate perceived threats and disasters. It is in this regard that every university has a well-established security unit, whereby security personnel are employed to handle the school security and ensure that lives and properties are protected and secured. The duties of these security officers include protection of lives/property, surveillance, gathering and dissemination of security intelligence, among others University campuses as observed are dynamic environments with constant activity, which require an effective security unit that would address the protection and safe guarding of students, staff, visitors, faculty, property and facilities on campus. Good security services not only help to prevent crimes, but also contribute to a positive image of the institution by creating a safe and welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors. Maintaining security in any organization is a complex issue and the quality of security services depend on a number of factors, one of which is the calibre of staff [23, 24].

A casual observation indicates that some personnel employed in the security units hardly had any formal training on security matters, as a result, it does not only exposes their client to serious security risk but also the security personnel themselves as well, when there are security threats [2]. Security personnel cannot discharge their duties effectively without adequate facilities, it is also observed that most institutions of learning are porous and do not have perimeter fencing, which is critical in preventing access by intruders, securing assets, and protecting personnel or buildings. Safe-guarding the academic environment for educational activities is very important, the need to re-position the security personnel in the universities to effectively discharge their duties in relation to the emerging security issues and challenges cannot be overemphasized. This is needful because as cautioned by the perception of campus as a dangerous place may erode the quality of academic and social life for students, faculty, as well as, undermining a school's ability to attract and retain both clientele and personnel [2, 25].

It has been observed that the objectives of tertiary education in Nigeria can only be realised when their environments are peaceful, secured and conducive for teaching, learning and implementation of research programmes. The academic staffs are the implementers of the curriculum. Every educational institution needs teachers. Teachers are regarded as the engine room of educational institutions. Teachers working in public educational institutions in Nigeria are facing many challenges [17]. Academic staff, non-academic staff and students requires a conducive and peaceful environment to teach, work and learn. The provision of a peaceful and secured teaching and learning environment for the

lecturers, non-teaching staff and students guarantee an uninterrupted development of tertiary institutions [26]. According to Odebode, *et al.* [24] and Balogun [25] insecurity in educational sector guarantees that the human resources within educational institutions are in the state of fear or threat and lack peace to carry out their respective functions. It is a situation where school administrators, teachers, nonteaching staff and students are in constant panic. Educational institutions in Nigeria are under attack, basic, secondary schools and higher institutions notwithstanding. Teachers in all the forms of educational institutions are facing the problems of insecurity. It is imperative to examine the effects of insecurity on the Nigerian academic staff in Nigeria [22, 27]. Bayero University Kano like other institutions in Nigeria faces security challenges. The most common act of insecurities are burglary of staff houses (quarters), lecture halls and classrooms and stealing which involves cell-phone snatching, wallet snatching, theft of books, watches, umbrella, clothes, foot-wears amongst others (Bayero university Kano news).

It is against this background that the study sought to determine ways of managing security challenges in Nigerian Universities with the following objectives: To identify the security challenges at Bayero University staff residential quarters and to ascertain the impact of insecurity challenges on staff living at the Bayero University residential quarters.

2. Methodology

A survey strategy was adopted for this research as a result of the decision made earlier with respect to the choices of the research approach and designs which makes survey design best for assessing the security challenges at Bayero University staff residential quarters using research questionnaire as instrument. The population of the study comprises of the residents in the staff quarters of Bayero University Kano. Bayero University Kano have their residential quarters at four different locations, which are; Old campus, New campus, Zoo road and SCE Dala staff quarters, but for the purpose of this study the population was limited to only new and old campuses.

The sample frame is the total number of items of the sample population; the targeted respondents from the total study population is the total number of academic and non-academic staff occupying the staff quarters in both new and old campus which are four hundred and thirty-six (436) in total. For purpose of this study, Olanrewaju, *et al.* [28] Table of defining sample size was adopted. Therefore, two hundred and five (205) staff quarters at old and new campus were considered as sample size.

This research adopted random sampling technique; in which case every respondent in the defined population has an equal chance of being selected during the administration of the questionnaire. This was achieved by ensuring that the number of questionnaires administered to each of the respondent equals the calculated sample size. Open ended questionnaire was adopted as the major instrument for collecting data from the respondents at the

Bayero University staff quarters. The data gathered from the field was analysed using frequency table, mean ranking, and percentages. A total of two hundred and five (205) questionnaires were administered.

3. Results and Discussion

Two hundred and five (205) questionnaires were administered and total number of 174 was retrieved while total questionnaires un-retrieved are 31 and total questionnaires analysed are 174. However, this indicated

that about 85 per cent of the questionnaires administered were retrieved.

Table 1 shows the response on the forms of security challenges faced by residents of the university staff quarters. 27% of the residents strongly agreed that robbery is one of the major forms of security challenges faced by the residents while 30% of the respondents agreed. Furthermore, 24% of the respondents disagreed that robbery is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters while 19% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Table 1: Security challenges at Bayero University staff residential quarters.

Variables		Responses and number of respondents			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A	Robbery	33 (19%)	41 (24%)	52 (30%)	48 (27%)
B	Burglary	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	71 (41%)	103 (59%)
C	Theft	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	89 (52%)	85 (48%)
D	Kidnapping	99 (56%)	74 (43%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
E	Arson	73 (42%)	101 (58%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
F	Assault	49 (28%)	66 (37%)	52 (30%)	7 (5%)
G	Occultism	123 (71%)	51 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
H	Violence	139 (78%)	28 (17%)	7 (5%)	0 (0%)
I	House Breaking	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	90 (52%)	81 (47%)
J	Car Hijacking	131 (75%)	41 (24%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)

Also, 59% of the respondents strongly agreed that burglary is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters, while 41% of the respondents agreed. 48% of the respondents strongly agreed that theft is one of the major forms of security challenges being faced by the residents while 52% of the respondents agreed, 0% of the respondents disagreed that theft is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters.

Furthermore, 58% of the respondents disagreed that arson is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters and 42% of the respondents strongly disagreed. What's more, 43% of the respondents disagreed that kidnapping is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters and 56% of the respondents strongly disagreed. Also 30 % of the respondents agreed that assault is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters while 37% of the respondents disagreed. Also, 29% of the respondents disagreed that occultism is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters and 71% of the respondents strongly disagreed. More-so, 47% of the respondents strongly agreed that house breaking is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters, while 52% of the respondents agreed. Also, 17% of the respondents disagreed that violence is one of the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters and 78% of the respondents strongly disagreed. Lastly, 24% of the respondents disagreed that car hijacking is among the major forms of security challenges being encountered by the residents of

the staff quarters and 75% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Table 2: Mean and ranking of the security challenges

	Variables	Mean	Ranking
A	Burglary	3.59	1 st
B	Theft	3.48	2 nd
C	House Breaking	3.44	3 rd
D	Robbery	2.66	4 th
E	Assault	2.09	5 th
F	Arson	1.58	6 th
G	Kidnapping	1.43	7 th
H	Occultism	1.29	8 th
I	Car Hijacking	1.25	9 th
J	Violence	1.24	10 th

Table 2 shows that burglary has the highest mean ranking of 3.59, followed by theft and then followed by house breaking. This implies that majority of the residents in the staff residential quarters agreed to it as the major form of security challenges being faced by residents of the staff quarters.

Table 3 shows the causes of security challenges faced by residents of the staff quarters. 93% of the respondents strongly agreed that poor security measures is one of the major causes of security challenges faced by residents of the staff quarters while 7% of the respondents agreed that poor security measures is one of the major causes of security challenges faced by the residents. Also, 78% of the respondents strongly agreed that inadequate security personnel is among the major causes of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters, while 22% of the respondents agreed.

A total 66% of the respondents agreed that poverty is one of the major causes of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters while 32% of the respondents disagreed.

Table 3: Major causes of security challenges at Bayero University staff quarters

Variables	Responses and number of respondents			
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A Poor security measures	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (7%)	163 (93%)
B Inadequate security personnel	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	40 (22%)	134 (78%)
C Poverty	3 (1%)	57 (32%)	112 (66%)	2 (1%)
D Family Condition	60 (35%)	86 (49%)	27 (15%)	1 (1%)
E Overpopulation	32 (18%)	81 (47%)	60 (34%)	1 (1%)
F Depression and Mental Disorder	28 (16%)	125 (71%)	18 (10%)	3 (2%)
G Racism	76 (43%)	98 (57%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Moreover, 49% of the respondents disagreed that family condition is one of the major causes of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters and 35% of the respondents strongly disagreed. Furthermore, 34% of the respondents agreed that overpopulation is one of the major causes of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters, while 47% of the respondents disagreed. Also, 71% of the respondents disagreed that depression and mental disorder is one of the major causes of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters while 16% of the respondents strongly disagreed. Lastly, 57% of the respondents disagreed that racism is one of the major causes of security challenges being encountered by the residents of the staff quarters and 43% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Table 4: Mean and ranking of major causes of security challenges faced by the residents

	Variables	Mean	Ranking
A	Poor security measures	3.93	1 st
B	Inadequate security personnel	3.77	2 nd
C	Poverty	2.64	3 rd
D	Overpopulation	2.17	4 th
E	Depression and Mental Disorder	1.97	5 th
F	Family Condition	1.82	6 th
G	Racism	1.56	7 th

Table 4 shows that poor security measures has the highest mean ranking of 3.93, followed by inadequate security personnel and then followed by poverty. This implies that majority of the residents in the staff residential quarters agreed to it as the major causes of security challenges being faced by residents of the staff quarters.

Table 5: Impact of security challenges at the residential quarters

	Variables	Responses and number of respondents			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A	Worrying becoming a victim of crime	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	26 (14%)	148 (86%)
B	Loss of properties	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	171 (98%)
C	Depression	27 (16%)	40 (23%)	54 (31%)	53 (30%)
D	Feeling unsafe walking alone at night	23 (13%)	32 (19%)	58 (33%)	61 (35%)
E	Feeling unsafe awaiting the family at night	29 (17%)	43 (25%)	50 (28%)	52 (30%)
F	Worried of knowing the victim of crime	6 (3%)	8 (5%)	71 (40%)	89 (52%)
G	Post- traumatic stress disorder	10 (6%)	12 (7%)	93 (54%)	59 (33%)
H	Disrupt serenity of the environment	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	158 (92%)	16 (8%)

Table 5 shows the impacts of security challenges on residents of the staff quarters. 86% of the respondents strongly agreed that majority of the residents are worried of becoming a victim of crime, while 14% of the respondents agreed. Also, 98% of the respondents strongly agreed that security challenges leads to loss of properties while only 2% of the respondents agreed. 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that security challenges leads to depression while 31% of the respondents agreed.

Likewise, 35% of the respondents strongly agreed that the residents feels unsafe walking alone at night while 33% of the respondents agreed, 19% of the respondents disagreed that the residents feels unsafe walking alone at night. Furthermore, 30% of the respondents strongly agreed that the residents feels unsafe awaiting family at night while 28% of the respondents agreed, 25% of the respondents disagreed that the residents feels unsafe awaiting their family. Also, 52% of the respondents strongly agreed that post-traumatic stress disorder as a major impact of security challenges being faced by the residents while 40% of the respondents agreed. Likewise, 92% of the

respondents agreed that the security challenges disrupt serenity of the environment while only 8% strongly agreed.

Table 6: Mean and ranking of the impacts of security challenges on the residents of the University staff quarters

	Variables	Mean	Ranking
A	Worrying becoming a victim of crime	3.85	2 nd
B	Loss of properties	4.05	1 st
C	Depression	2.76	7 th
D	Feeling unsafe walking alone at night	2.90	6 th
E	Feeling unsafe awaiting the family at night	2.71	8 th
F	Worried of knowing the victim of crime	3.39	3 rd
G	Post- traumatic stress disorder	3.15	4 th
H	Disrupt serenity of the environment	3.09	5 th

Table 6 shows that loss of properties has the highest mean ranking of 4.05 then followed by worrying of becoming a victim of crime with a mean ranking of 3.85. This implies that majority of the residents in the staff residential quarters agreed that loss of properties and worrying of becoming a victim of crime are the major impacts or effects of security challenges on the residents of the staff residential quarters.

4. Conclusion

The findings revealed that the major forms of security challenges faced by the residents of the University staff quarters are mainly burglary, theft and house breaking. This result conforms to the findings of [4] which stated that most houses became the target for burglary for reasons independent of their degree of security. Targets are chosen because of the potential reward they offer, because they are not occupied, but mostly because they can be easily approached without the burglar being seen. Moreover, it was realised that these insecurity challenges have significant impacts on the residents of the university staff quarters. These impacts include loss of properties, worrying of becoming a victim of crime, post-traumatic stress disorder, feeling unsafe walking at night and disrupting the serenity of the environment. Bayero University Kano has taken several steps to address the security challenges at its staff residential quarters. These include increasing security patrols, improving lighting infrastructure, and collaborating with military organizations by engaging the services of military personnel, all these measures are being taken to enhance the overall safety and security of the staff residing at the staff residential quarters, this in conformity with the findings of [13,30] which stated that fear is an emotional response to crime while the use of safety measure is taken as physical response to crime.

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