

PERCEPTION OF THE ROLE OF SECURITY PERSONNEL IN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN KWARA STATE

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Abstract

Security personnel help in maintaining peace and harmony on campuses which enhances effective administration in tertiary institutions. This study investigated the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State. The study was a descriptive survey of correlational type. One hundred administrative staff, 100 lecturers and 25 security personnel were drawn as sample for the study from Al-Hikmah University, Kwara State Polytechnic, Kwara State University, The Federal Polytechnic and University of Ilorin through stratified random sampling technique. A researcher-designed instrument entitled: "Role of Security Personnel in Effective Administration Questionnaire" (RSPEAQ) was used to elicit relevant information from the respondents. Three research hypotheses were formulated to guide the conduct of the study. T-test statistical analysis was used to test the three hypotheses formulated in the study at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that there was no significant difference between administrative staff and lecturers' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State (cal. t-value = 1.015 < crit. t-value = 1.984). On this note, it was recommended, among others, that security personnel should be more committed to protection of lives and property on campus thereby achieving the objectives of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.

Keywords: Security personnel, Effective administration, Tertiary institutions, Kwara State

Introduction

The invaluable roles and contributions of education as a veritable tool in the development of an individual and the nation as a whole cannot be over emphasized. Nigeria, like many countries of the world, take education as an instrument for the promotion of national development as well as effecting desirable social change among the citizens (FRN, 2004). This perhaps, might be responsible for the continuous growing concern of all stakeholders in the education sector on changes that are likely to affect it as well as the implications such changes will have on effective administration of the country. There is, therefore, the urgent need to really peruse the future of our nation's education vis-à-vis security challenges ahead with a view to achieving effectiveness, quality and relevance in the entire system. The most embarrassing problem facing tertiary institutions in Nigeria today is security challenge. The potential for destruction of lives and property on campuses has escalated. There is hardly any academic session without reported cases of killing in some Nigerian tertiary institutions (Udey, Ebuara, Ekpoh & Edet, 2009).

In the face of ever increasing acts of lawlessness, social disorder, armed robbery, cultism, prostitution, examination malpractice and fighting in Nigerian tertiary institutions, it has become necessary to examine the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary institutions. Security personnel are agents set up by law to maintain law and order in the State. Security personnel such as police and security guards help to enforce laws for students and staff on campus in order to attain institution's vision and mission. Administration is an act of getting things done through and with people. Peretomode (1991)

viewed administration as concerned with the performance of executive duties, the carrying out of policies and decisions to fulfil a purpose, and the controlling of the day-to-day running of an organization. It is also the careful and systematic arrangement and use of resource (human and material), situations and opportunities for the achievement of the specified objectives of a given organization (Nwankwo, 2001). Security personnel are also involved in providing first response to emergencies and other threats to public safety; the protection of certain public facilities and infrastructure; the maintenance of public order and the protection of public officials.

Security is the state of being free from danger or injury, the freedom from apprehension or anxiety; confidence of power of safety; hence, assurance and certainty (Are, 2011). To have security thus, mean to be safe, secured, protected and enjoy peace of life; that is, the state of being or feeling secure; freedom from fear, anxiety, danger, doubt; something that gives or assures safety, tranquillity, certainty, protection and safeguard. In an objective sense, security means the absence of threats to acquired values and in a subjective sense, it means the absence of fear that such values will be attacked. All these are essential prerequisites for a healthy and peaceful environment that could engender growth and development of human society (Sunday, 2010).

Human quest for security is recurrent. Over the ages, emerging forms of human, social and political organization have stimulated a necessity for the protection and safety of the individual, family, community and the nation. As threats continue to transform and multiply, insecurity emerged as the most dominant fear of human beings. The fear of insecurity which manifests at the individual or group level can also be projected to institutions and corporate entities, countries and regional blocs. The need for human security, therefore, pervades the entire fabrics of human nature and existence, and is at the cornerstone of human development. Law enforcement professionals show supreme dedication and face risks daily to defend citizens against criminal activity (Are, 2011).

Federal Republic of Nigeria National Policy on Education (2004) states that Higher Education includes Universities, Polytechnics, Monotechnics and Colleges of Education. The policy states inter alia the following as some of the goals of tertiary education:

- (i) To contribute to national development through relevant manpower training.
- (ii) To develop and inculcate proper values or the survival of society
- (iii) To promote scholarship, community service, national unity and international understanding higher.

The function of higher institutions, therefore, is to produce high level work force required for rapid socio-economic development of the State. It is necessary to say that the quality of human capital determines the rate of growth and development of a society, State and nation. There is a direct correlation between capabilities and competences of the citizenry and wealth creation. Therefore, high human capital development, effective engagement and utilization are of great importance if a nation or state is to advance technologically, economically and socially (Ogun State Bureau of Tertiary Institution, 2010).

Academic administration is a branch of university or college employees responsible for the maintenance and supervision of the institution and separate from the faculty or academics, although some personnel may have joint responsibilities. Some type of separate administrative structure exists at almost all academic institutions, as fewer schools are governed by employees who are also involved in academic or scholarly work. Many administrators are academics who have advanced degrees and no longer teach or conduct research actively (Wikipedia, 2012).

Management is an act of harmonising both human and material resources in order to achieve institutional goals and objectives at a given point in time. It involves planning, organising, controlling, directing, coordinating, supervision, staffing and budgeting (Akinnubi, 2010). According to Obafunwa (2010), the essence of education, especially at the tertiary level, is to assist in the construction of a knowledge economy and society in all Nations. Fundamental roles of education include producing graduates equipped with the skills and competencies required by their countries for national development, promoting the advancement of learning and transmitting cultural values that advance national unity and providing public service. Given the ubiquitous nature and role of security in man's life and environment, this paper sets out to investigate staff perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary institutions in Kwara State.

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses are formulated for the conduct of the study:

- Ho₁: There is no significant difference between administrative staff and lecturers' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.
- Ho₂: There is no significant difference between administrative staff and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.
- Ho₃: There is no significant difference between lecturers and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.

Methodology

The study was a descriptive survey of correlational type. One hundred administrative staff, 100 lecturers and 25 security personnel were selected through stratified random sampling technique as sample for the study from four tertiary institutions in Kwara State, that is, Al-Hikmah University, Kwara State University, The Federal Polytechnic and University of Ilorin. Thus, 25 administrative staff and 25 lecturers were chosen from each tertiary institution as sample. The administrative staff, lecturers and security personnel were chosen as participants because they could supply the required information for the conduct of the study. A researcher-designed instrument entitled: "Role of Security Personnel in Effective Administration Questionnaire" (RSPEAQ) was used to elicit relevant information from the respondents. The instrument was given to three experts in the areas of Educational Measurement and Evaluation for both face and content validity. Test re-test method was applied through a pilot study undertaken to ascertain the reliability of the questionnaire (RSPEAQ). The data collected were subjected to Pearson product-moment correlation statistic. This yielded .81 coefficient of reliability. This was considered reliable pursuant to its use in the conduct of the study. The researcher administered copies of the questionnaire designed on the respondents in the sampled tertiary institutions. Two trained research assistants were used to complement the efforts of the researcher in the institutions. Inferential statistic of t-test was used to test the research hypotheses formulated in the study at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussions

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference between administrative staff and lecturers' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.

Table 1: Administrative staff and lecturers' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration

Respondents	Number of cases	Mean	SD	df	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Decision
Administrative staff	100	13.42	5.11	199	1.015	1.984	Ho: Accepted
Lecturers	100	11.95	8.64				

Table 1 indicates that the calculated t-value (1.015) is less than the critical t-value (1.984) at .05 level of significance and for 199 degrees of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. This implies that there was no significant difference between administrative staff and lecturers' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary institutions in Kwara State. Security of life and property is very essential on campus. The state of security on campus has a great influence on the job performance of administrative staff and lecturers. Peace and security of life and property is a necessary condition for development as a conducive atmosphere is necessary for the attainment of institution's vision and mission. Effective teaching and learning cannot take place on campus without adequate security (Onovo, 2011).

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference between administrative staff and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary institutions in Kwara State.

Table 2: Administrative staff and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration

Respondents	Number of cases	Mean	SD	df	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Decision
Administrative staff	100	13.42	5.11	124	.773	1.984	Ho: Accepted
Security personnel	25	4.92	1.03				

In Table 2, the calculated t-value (.773) is less than the critical t-value (1.984) at 0.05 level of significance and for 124 degrees of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. This shows that there was no significant difference between administrative staff and law enforcement agents' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State. Effective school management depends on collaboration and teamwork among lecturers, students, administrators, and security personnel such as police and security men own by the institution. When there are adequate provisions of personnel services for the students, less of deviant behaviours will be exhibited on the campus there contributing to state of security on campus (Akinnubi & Kayode, 2012).

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference between lecturers and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.

Table 3: Lecturers and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary institutions

Respondents	Number of cases	Mean	SD	Df	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Decision
Lecturers	100	11.95	8.64	124	1.361	1.984	Ho: Rejected
Security personnel	25	4.92	1.03				

From Table 3, the calculated t-value (1.361) is less than the critical t-value (1.984) at 0.05 level of significance and for 124 degrees of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. This indicates that there was no significant difference between lecturers and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State. The role of lecturers in tertiary education includes teaching, research and publications and community services. These roles can be effectively achieved in a secured environment at a given point in time. There is no gain saying the fact that police officers do visit tertiary education in Kwara State with the intention to ensure that there is peace and tranquillity on campus. The assets of the institutions must be protected from destruction as a result of violence. Security personnel are actively involved in protection of school property (Albert, 1992).

Conclusion

It is a truism to assert that security personnel help to ensure effective administration of tertiary education institutions on campus. It can be concluded that there was no significant difference between administrative staff and lecturers' perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State. No significant difference existed between administrative staff and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State. There was no significant difference between lecturers and security personnel's perception of the role of security personnel in effective administration of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State. In order to maintain effective administration of higher institutions of learning, various measures are put in place to address security challenge among staff and students (Fehnel, 2000).

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- (i) Security personnel should be more committed to protection of lives and property on campus thereby achieving the objectives of tertiary education institutions in Kwara State.
- (ii) The management of tertiary education in Kwara State should create fora for discussion among administrative staff, lecturers and security personnel on the state of security on campus.
- (iii) Security personnel should be more involved during examinations in order to reduce violence on campus.

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