

STRATEGIC MEASURES TO CURB INSECURITY PROBLEMS AFFECTING STUDENTS

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Riwayat Artikel : diterima: 1 September 2022; direvisi: 1 Juli 2023; disetujui: 30 Juli 2023

Abstrak.

Insecurity is the state of being subject to danger or injury. The study investigated strategic measures to curb insecurity problem affecting students. The study adopted descriptive research design of survey type. The study population comprised of all undergraduates in the study area. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select two hundred and forty-nine respondents participated in the study. A researcher structured questionnaire which was validated and tested for reliability was adopted for the study. A coefficient of 0.79 was obtained using Split-half method. The instrument was administered by the researchers and three trained research assistants. Inferential statistics of chi-square was used to analysed the hypotheses postulated for this study at 0.05 alpha level. The findings of this study revealed that, emergency alarm significantly curb insecurity affecting students because the calculated chi-square value of 448.67 greater than the table value of 16.92 @ 0.05 alpha level, self-defense skills significantly curb insecurity affecting students because the calculated chi-square value of 290.28 greater than the table value of 16.92 @ 0.05 alpha level. The study concluded that placing of emergency alarm at designated school areas suppress insecurity and self-defense skills plays a vital role in ensuring safety of students. The researchers recommends among others that the school authority should procure and placed emergency alarm at designated areas in the school premises to serve as means of alert students against insecurity problems affecting students in the school which will also scare away miscreants from committing their wicked activities.

Keywords: Strategic, Measures, Curb, Insecurity, Students

LANGKAH-LANGKAH STRATEGIS UNTUK MENGEKANG MASALAH RASA TIDAK AMAN YANG MEMPENGARUHI SISWA

Abstract. Ketidakamanan adalah keadaan mengalami bahaya atau cedera. Studi ini menyelidiki langkah-langkah strategis untuk mengekang masalah rasa tidak aman yang mempengaruhi siswa. Studi ini mengadopsi desain penelitian deskriptif dari jenis survei. Populasi penelitian terdiri dari semua sarjana di wilayah studi. Teknik pengambilan sampel multi-tahap digunakan untuk memilih dua ratus empat puluh sembilan responden berpartisipasi dalam penelitian ini. Kuesioner terstruktur peneliti yang divalidasi dan diuji keandalan adalah diadopsi untuk penelitian ini. Koefisien 0,79 diperoleh dengan menggunakan metode split-setengah. Instrumen ini diberikan oleh para peneliti dan tiga asisten peneliti terlatih. Statistik inferensial chi-square digunakan untuk menganalisis hipotesis yang dipostulatkan untuk penelitian ini pada tingkat alfa 0,05. Temuan penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa, alarm darurat secara signifikan mengekang rasa tidak aman yang mempengaruhi siswa karena nilai chi-square yang dihitung 448,67 lebih besar dari table Nilai 16,92 @ 0,05 level alfa, keterampilan pertahanan diri secara signifikan mengekang rasa tidak aman yang mempengaruhi siswa karena nilai chi-square yang dihitung 290,28 lebih besar dari nilai tabel 16,92 @ 0,05 level alfa. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa penempatan alarm darurat di area sekolah yang ditunjuk menekan ketidakamanan dan keterampilan pertahanan diri memainkan peran penting dalam memastikan keamanan siswa. Para peneliti merekomendasikan antara lain bahwa otoritas sekolah harus membeli dan menempatkan alarm darurat di daerah-daerah yang ditunjuk di lokasi sekolah untuk melayani sebagai sarana waspada terhadap siswa terhadap masalah rasa tidak aman yang mempengaruhi siswa di sekolah yang juga akan menakuti para penjahat dari melakukan kegiatan jahat mereka.

Kata Kunci: strategis, langkah-langkah, trotoar, rasa tidak aman, siswa

I. INTRODUCTION

Insecurity is the state of being subject to danger or injury. The anxiety that is experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure. The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety, danger, hazard and uncertainty, lack of protection and lack of safety. According to Beland, (2005), insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or of protection. Achumba et al (2013), defines insecurity from two perspectives. First, insecurity is a state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or

injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune.

However, it should be noted that there is no such thing as 'Perfect Peace' as national security is concerned; it can only be defined as the continued ability of a country to pursue its internal life with serious interference (Cooley, 2011). The United State, the United Kingdom and many other countries face the challenges of insecurity within their borders on a daily basis. The difference between them and our country Nigeria, is how they manage the threats; how knowledgeable

and prepared they are; how they deploy resources against the threats; how effective they are; how patriotic and united these people are against threats of insecurity (Adejumobi, 2011).

Security is the prime responsibility of the State (Hobbes, 1996). The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically state that “The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government”. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has fuelled the crime rate and terrorist attacks in different parts of the country. Leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation’s economy and its growth. To address the threat to national security and combat the increasing waves of crimes the Federal government in the 2013 budget made a huge allocation to security, and the national assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011 (Ewetan,2013). Despite the effort, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012). Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of security in Nigeria, government have not produced the desired positive result. This has compelled the Nigeria government in recent times to request for foreign assistance from countries such as US, Isreal, and European Union countries to combat the rising waves of insecurity and terrorism. In the quest to put an end to the country’s insecurity, is the inauguration of the security outfit known as Joint Task Force (JTF) with the singular aim of quenching the activities of robbers, ethnic militia, kidnapers as well as terrorism. Furthermore, in the Niger-Delta, government has granted amnesty to the erstwhile militant as well as setting up rehabilitation programs for them. Government also set up several extra-ministerial bodies such as the Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission (OMPADEC), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Technical Committees, Ministry of the Niger Delta, and the National Council of the Niger Delta (NCND).

There are links between human security and health as insecurity leads to collapse in the health care delivery which has concomitant effect on the people’s well-being (Mori, Meddings and Bettcher, 2004). Security plays a major role in the existence and sustenance of human being. Insecurity has a far reaching impact on people’s lives and well-being and for this singular reason the government has to be alive to its responsibility of guaranteeing security (Coupland, 2007). When people’s security is guaranteed, it gives them the freedom, physically and mentally to get on with the business of building their lives without fear of molestation or violent death. To experience a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, security is essential (Meddings, 2001). Without security, there can be no stable society rather there will be prevalent fear and danger from violent death (Coupland, 2007).

Nigeria has witnessed various ethno-religion and communal violent, political assassination, electoral violence, armed militancy and insurgency or Boko Haram terrorism in the recent years. What this current trend is imprinting on the psyche of Nigerians is that the government security apparatus is incapable of guaranteeing safety and security of its people. This would, therefore, impact on the general human security

of the people as the situation promotes fear, while at the same time limiting the peoples’ ability to develop economically (Adejumobi, 2011).

The dangerous position in which insecurity has placed this nation cannot be overemphasized, so much that virtually every sector is being affected by it. Education being a very important sector has not been spared of this dilemma. Where higher institutions have been a target for miscreants to perpetrate their nefarious activities.

The insecurity cases of undergraduates have been slowly deteriorating over the years and this, sadly, is not a new phenomenon that all stakeholders including but not limited to government, educators, parents and students have to address. Students can only attain academic success when they pursue their academic activities in a safe and secured environment. An institution noted for lawlessness amongst students and social vices like fighting, stealing, kidnapping, cultism, indecent and provocative dressing, sexual harassment and breach of peace may not be able to attain academic excellence and could dent the image of the institution and reputation. Security of lives and properties is no more just the business of the government. Other stakeholders and non-state actors, especially the informal authority, needed to guarantee the protection of life and property of citizen are educators, parents and students (United Nations, 2012).

Every year institutions of higher learning produce a lot of graduates who regrettably, thrown into the labour market with no hope in sight for job. In an effort to keep body and soul together, some become frustrated and go into violent and criminal acts such as kidnapping, militancy, and armed robbery. Others have become easy prey to terrorists and are easily radicalized. A poor economy with high poverty and unemployment rate appears to have been the bane of the Nigeria society (Ogah, Fanim, Ebosele & Adepetun, 2011). Educators should be consistent in promoting morality and ethical value while imparting knowledge on students. Being an exemplary leader to the students by exhibiting ethical values of kindness, tolerance, forgiveness, and consideration for others in all circumstances. This become very important because most violence and civil disturbance, even quarrel in the neighbourhood is mostly built on lack of forgiveness. Intolerance is deeply rooted in the fact that most people find it difficult to consider others in their actions which leads to disagreement, conflict and crisis. And as a result of this, insecurity is deepened. Parent involvement is also critical in the students’ safety and security. As they raise their children and wards, they help in inculcating habits and behaviors that help build or mar the society. Parenting is very fundamental in shaping attitudes of the individuals because it exposes children to various things during their formative years. And it should be noted that the process of raising and educating a child starts from birth until adulthood. In the face of security challenges Nigeria is passing through, the role of parent and parenting cannot be overemphasized. Students are mostly easy baits for perpetrators and also used to exhibit this evil deeds like suicide bombing, stealing and kidnapping.

University of Ilorin as an institution which is not spared from this mess as well, cases such as theft, rape, murder and missing student both on and off campus and the school environ have been recently reported and recorded. A reported case of a300 level female student of the Department of Agriculture Science University of Ilorin Kwara State, Blessing Omowumi Olajide was murdered in her residence at Tanke by group of boys on the 25th of May 2021. Her body was found in her residence with her two hands tied to the back, mouth gagged, naked, her private part bruised. Although the perpetrators were caught and justice served. As such, both the students and parents mind is tampered. Security crisis from other States and institutions is also a scary factor for students and parents. Research has shown this factors have aggravated the insecurity affecting undergraduates over the past couple of years. Therefore, the focus of this study is to proffer the strategic measures to curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin, Kwara State.

The following Research hypotheses were formulated for this study;

- 1) Emergency alarm will not significantly curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin.
- 2) Self-defense skills will not significantly curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design for the study was a descriptive research of the survey type. Research design is viewed as the functional plan in which certain research methods and procedure are linked together to acquire a reliable and valid body of data for empirically grounded analyses, conclusions and theory formulation. The population for this study comprises of all undergraduates in University of Ilorin. Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the study. Stage one, Simple random sampling technique of simple balloting was used to select five (5) faculties out of the sixteen (16) faculties in the University of Ilorin, namely; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Environmental Sciences. Stage two, proportionate sampling technique was used to select four percent of the students population from each of the selected faculties and number of respondents selected were as follows: twelve (12) students selected from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine out of three hundred and two (302), one hundred and thirty-five (135) students selected from Faculty of

Engineering out of three thousand three hundred and sixty-three (3363), thirty-eight students were selected from Faculty of Law out of nine hundred and fifty-nine (959), seventeen students selected from Faculty of Pharmacy out of four hundred and seventeen (417) and forty-seven students selected from Faculty of Environmental Sciences out of one thousand and ninety (1090) students. At stage three, simple random sampling technique was used to select the required number of students from each of the selected faculty and two hundred and forty-nine (249) respondents participated in this study.

The instrument used for the study was a researcher-developed questionnaire which was validated by three experts from the related field. Twenty copies of the questionnaire administered on twenty students from Guidance and Counselling department from Faculty of Education was used to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The reliability of the instrument established using a split-half method. The result of 0.79r obtained, the result was high enough which made the research instrument reliable for the study. The researchers administered the instrument with the help of the three trained research assistants. Non- parametric statistics of chi-square was used to analyse the result of stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Test of Hypotheses

H₀₁: Emergency alarm will not significantly curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin.

Table 1 shows that the calculated chi-square value of 448.67 is greater than the table value of 16.92 @ 0.05 alpha level at the degree of freedom of 9. Thereby the null hypothesis (H₀₁) was rejected. Hence, emergency alarms significantly curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin.

H₀₂: Self-defense skills will not significantly curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin.

Table 2 shows that the calculated chi-square value of 290.28 is greater than the table value of 16.92 @ 0.05 alpha level at the degree of freedom of 9. Thereby the null hypothesis (H₀₂) was rejected. Hence, self-defense skills significantly curb insecurity affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin.

TABLE 1. Chi-square Analysis Showing the Result of Emergency Alarm and Insecurity

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	Row Total	df	Cal. Value	Table Value	Remarks
1	Emergency alarm placed at designated school areas will stifle insecurity	237 (95.2%)	8 (3.2%)	0 (0%)	4 (1.6%)	249	9	448.67	16.92	Ho1 rejected
2	Emergency alarm will scare away	132	117	0	0	249				

	miscreants from committing their wicked activities	(53.0%)	(47.0%)	(0%)	(0%)	
3	Educating the students on the use of emergency alarm will eliminate insecurity	201 (80.7%)	32 (12.9%)	12 (4.8%)	4 (1.6%)	249
4	Monitoring the proper use of emergency alarm when the need arises will curb insecurity	108 (43.4%)	125 (50.2%)	8 (3.2%)	8 (3.2%)	249
	Column Total	678	282	20	16	996

@ 0.05 alpha level of significance

TABLE 2 Chi-square Analysis Showing the Result of Self-defense Skill and Insecurity

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	D	SD	Row Total	df	Cal. Value	Table Value	Remarks
1	Self-defense skill plays a vital role in ensuring safety of students	133 (53.4%)	108 (43.4%)	8 (3.2%)	0 (0%)	249				
2	Learning self defense will enhance safety of students	69 (27.7%)	156 (62.7%)	20 (8.0%)	4 (1.6%)	249				
3	Incorporating security education in the school curriculum will allow students to acquire appropriate skills against insecurity	125 (50.2%)	108 (43.4%)	8 (3.2%)	8 (3.2%)	249	9	290.28	16.92	Ho2 rejected
4	Self-defense practice will protect students against insecurity	77 (30.9%)	148 (59.4%)	8 (3.2%)	16 (6.4%)	249				
	Column Total	404	520	44	28	996				

@ 0.05 alpha level of significance

The result of the first hypothesis tested for the study showed that emergency alarm curb insecurity problems affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin. The result of the finding agreed with the view of Mosenia et al., (2014) who asserted that emergency alarm in the context of school safety is a device used to send a warning signal when an intruder has been detected. Also, Awotayo et al., (2013) reported that emergency alarms are used to communicate the presence of an individual or condition that is undesirable in the school environment.

The result of the second hypothesis tested for the study showed that self-defense skills curb insecurity challenges affecting students as expressed by undergraduates in University of Ilorin. This finding is in line with view of Banks (2010), who reported that teaching students the proper way of using self-defense techniques should actually help to limit the amount of insecurity in schools. Also, Brown and Johnson

(2000) reported that self-defense content can be very informative to school students and can provide them with proper instruction on how to protect themselves. Self-defense is a skill that if used correctly can allow individuals to have the knowledge needed to defend themselves during a harmful situation and to feel a sense of empowerment. It has been suggested that regular participation in self-defense and martial arts classes can develop a greater sense of self-control, self-esteem, and self-actualization in students.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that placing emergency alarm at designated areas in the school premises scare away miscreants from committing their wicked activities and learning of self defense skills enhance safety of students. All the identified strategies were shown to be capable for curbing insecurity challenges affecting students in the school environment.

In line with the findings in this research, the following recommendations were made: the school authority should procure and placed emergency alarm at designated areas in the school premises to serve as means of alert students against insecurity problems affecting students in the school which will also scare away miscreants from committing their wicked activities. The school authority should incorporate security education in the academic curriculum to enable students acquire appropriate defense skills against insecurity threat that rampant in our school environment which impose serious challenges on the educational activities in the school to ensure students safety.

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