

Impact of Insecurity on Student Academic Performance and Staff Job Performance in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria

Jae Talatu¹

Faculty of Education, Department of Administration and Planning, Taraba State University,
Jalingo, Nigeria

Email: talatudalhatu220@gmail.com

Talatu Jimuh

Faculty of Education, Department of Administration and Planning, Taraba State University,
Jalingo, Nigeria

Email: talatu790@gmail.com

Abstract

The paper is a review study and focuses on assessing the impact of insecurity on students' academic performance and academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Secondary data were collected from online publications and print materials. The study discovered that insecurity affected the student's academic performance and staff job performance in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Based on these findings, the paper hereby recommends that the government at every level should address all issues fueling insecurity challenges in Nigeria and ensure higher institutions in Nigeria are secure and safe for teaching and learning. The government should invest in higher institutions' securities across the country.

Keywords: Insecurity, Students' Academic performance, staff Job performance, Tertiary institutions

Introduction:

No nation can develop when there is a high level of insecurity in society. The far-reaching effects of insecurity are evident in most communities in Nigeria; they are less developed and backward. This is because insecurity in recent times has been one of the major issues bedevilling the majority of Nigerian communities. The 2014 Global Report on Security indicated that Nigeria is one of the most crime-ravaging countries in the world. The report rated Nigeria high on the following critical variables: unlawful possession of arms, forgery, receiving stolen properties, false pretence, burglary, theft, Boko Haram, armed robbery, kidnapping, attempted murder cases, manslaughter etc. (Adams et al., 2021). Muhammed, & Ogunode (2022) noted that the insecurity in Nigeria has affected educational institutions leading to school closure, the destruction of infrastructure facilities and the death of many students and teachers. Insecurity continues to threaten the basic school, secondary schools and higher education in Nigeria to the extent that university managers, lecturers and students have all suffered from the insecurity problem in the country (Ogunode et al., 2021b; Ogunode et al., 2021a; Wilson, 2019).

Tertiary institutions in Nigeria appear to be among the educational institutions that are facing the problem of insecurity in Nigeria. There have been reports of tertiary institutions being

¹ Corresponding author

attacked by terrorists, bandits and Boko Haram members in Nigeria. For instance, in May 2021, 16 students of Greenfield University were snatched from their school in Kaduna. It took more than two months, the deaths of five of them and millions of ransom for the last student to be released. In July 2021, about 53 students of Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna were stolen from their school and held for months. The Nigerian Baptist Convention had to spend about N250 million to secure the release of the students. In 2021, the University of Abuja located around the Gwagwalada area council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) came to another attack, a day after bandits invaded the higher institution of learning and kidnapped lecturers and children. On January 10, 2022, suspected members of the terrorist group Boko Haram attacked the Nigerian Army University (Ogunode et al., 2021d). On 2 Apr 2023 — armed bandits abducted two female students at the Federal University Gusau (FUGUS) in Zamfara State (ibid). It is based on this that this study aimed to assess the impact of insecurity on students' academic performance and staff job performance in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study:

The purpose of this study is to assess the impact of insecurity on students' academic performance and academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Specifically, the study is narrowed to;

- i. Find out the impact of impact of insecurity on students' academic performance in tertiary institutions; and
- ii. Examine the impact of insecurity on academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions.

Research Questions:

To guide this study, the following research questions were formulated;

- i. What is the impact of insecurity on students' academic performance in tertiary institutions?; and
- ii. What is the impact of insecurity on academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions?

Literature Review:

Tertiary Institutions

Tertiary education is defined by the FRN (2013) as the education given after Post Basic Education in institutions such as Universities and Inter-University Centres such as the Nigeria French Language Village, Nigeria Arabic Language Village, National Institute of Nigerian Languages, institutions such as Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs), and Colleges of Education, Monotechnics, Polytechnics, and other specialized institutions such as Colleges of Agriculture, Schools of Health and Technology and the National Teachers' Institutes (NTI). Tertiary education is the final stage of education that handles the production of manpower for the social, economic and technological development of a country. Tertiary education is an organized education that deals with intensive teaching, research and provision of community services (Akin-Ibidiran et al., 2022). Tertiary education or higher education covers a wider range of higher learning institutions including the university. These higher learning institutions could be organized

in different ways, commonly within a university and in a separate institution as university and other tertiary learning institutions (Alemu, 2018).

The goals of tertiary education according to the FRN (2013), shall be to: contribute to national development through high-level manpower training; provide accessible and affordable quality learning opportunities in formal and informal education in response to the needs and interests of all Nigerians; provide high-quality career counselling and lifelong learning program that prepare students with the knowledge and skills for self-reliance and the world of work; reduce skill shortages through the production of skilled manpower relevant to the needs of the labour market; promote and encourage scholarship, entrepreneurship and community service; forge and cement national unity; and promote national and international understanding and interaction. Insecurity is a major problem that can hamper the development of tertiary institutions and militate against the realization of their objectives. Nigerian Tertiary Educational Institutions or higher education were set up to provide quality education and to bring about the overall development of the society at local and global scales. Statistics have shown that many Nigerian tertiary institutions and educational institutions are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve these set-out goals as a result of the high level of insecurity in the country (Onifode, et al., 2013; Omede & Omede, 2015; Solomon & Solomon, 2021).

Insecurity:

Eme (2011) described insecurity as a breach of peace and security whether historical, ethnic, religious, civil, political or psychological that has contributed to prevalent conflicts the country has witnessed over the years, resulting in war and destruction and loss of lives and properties, in which the education sector has not been left untouched. Ogunode & Adanna (2022) defined insecurity as the state or event that puts an individual or institution into fear and threat and makes the individual or institution unable to carry out any meaningful work. Olamosu (2000), also viewed insecurity as a state or condition in the life of a social unit, system, organization or society in which the existence of a; problem assumes a critical dimension to the extent that the survival or existence of the social system or structure is threatened. Best (2006), defined insecurity as a degenerated stage of conflict, threats to human security, intense violence characterized by fighting, death, injury, etc.. Insecurity globally affected tertiary institutions' administration by causing unstable academic programmes (Wale & Temitope, 2019).

Factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria according to Ogunode et al. (2021a) include; unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, marginalization, political factors, international influence, communal crisis etc.

Educational institutions are the most affected institutions in recants times. Nnamdi (2021) and Ogunode et al. (2021a) outlined reasons why educational institutions have been attacked by insurgents. For one, schools are soft targets. They often have weak security, with few or no fences, and guards are few and poorly trained. State and Federal security forces are unlikely to be an impediment, as they are stretched woefully across the length and breadth of the country. Secondly, mass abductions of children is an issue that requires urgent attention. They attract far more national and international media coverage and tend to stir more public outrage, than kidnapping adult villagers or travellers on highways. The media glare forces the government almost immediately into negotiations and may result in quicker government concessions to speed up the children's release. Thirdly, kidnappers appear to be highly motivated by the concessions they can extract in exchange for releasing abductees, although state and federal officials have repeatedly denied

making any. Hard evidence remains slim, but there have been several reports since the Chibok case in 2014 of governments paying ransom, releasing armed group members from detention or agreeing to halt military operations.

Academic Staff:

Academic staff also known as faculty members are key components of higher institutions, especially the universities. The academic staff as the name implies are professionals who handle the teaching, and research programmes of the higher institutions and also perform other academic services. The role of academic staff in the development of higher institutions cannot be underestimated, because the academic staff are the implementers of instruction in educational institutions. Academic staff are professional personnel in charge of teaching or lecturing in higher institutions. The Academic staff members are the teaching staff of the tertiary institutions. They are called lecturers. They are involved in three major functions in the institutions which are teaching and researching and community services. They are categorized into Graduate Assistant, Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer II, Lecturer I, senior Lecturer, Associate Professor/Reader and Professors. Academic staff are critical determiners in the attainment of higher education goals. Without them, the goals of higher education in the country cannot be achieved (Ogunode et al., 2020b). The job performance of academic staff is very important to the development of tertiary institutions

Academic Staff job performance:

Academic staff performance is a performance result that can be achieved by a person or group in an organization quantitatively (Robbins & Judge, 2017; Ogunode & Ayeni, 2023). All activities carried out to improve higher education are a method of performance. Ogunode et al. (2023) academic staff job performance is the total performance of teaching, researching and community services responsibilities an academic staff as carried out and still carrying in the institutions that are employed at a particular time. Academic staff job performance is the general record of tasks carried out by academic staff to be compared to the assigned responsibilities and functions given to them.

Academic staff cardinal functions include; teaching, research and provision of community service. On teaching, Ogunode & Ndayebom (2022) tertiary institutions are institutions saddled with responsibilities of character building and behaviour modifications. It is expected of every tertiary institution graduate to have acquired a positive best acceptable societal value that is gender friendly which is regarded as international best practices. The teaching programme is the first cardinal programme of tertiary institutions. It deals with the impartation of knowledge and behavioural change. Academic staff are saddled with the implementation of the teaching programme in tertiary institutions and the teaching programme includes the presentation of lectures, supervision of projects, marking of students' scripts, preparation of students' results, assigning of assignments to students and mentorship (Ogunode & Ukozor, 2023).

In research, Ogunode & Ade (2023), Ogunode et al. (2020a) and Paul (2015) observed that the three cardinal programmes of the universities are teaching programme, research programme and community services. The research programme is the second cardinal programme of the universities. It is one of the most important criteria used for measuring the performance of universities. The research programme of the universities aims to aid the social, economic and technological advancement of the country (Yusuf, 2012).

On community services, Ogunode et al. (2022a) noted that the community service programme is the third cardinal programme of tertiary institutions. A community service programme is an organized and planned service programme of higher institutions for the benefit and betterment of their host community. Community service programmes of higher institutions are community-inclined services initiated by the institutions to develop the communities. Community services of higher institutions are services provided by institutions to benefit the community people. Community services programmes are done near the area where the institutions are located so that the host community can enjoy the benefits of the institutions. The job performance of academic staff also targets how to improve students' academic performance in tertiary institutions.

Student Academic Performance:

Ijaiya (2004) asserted that student academic performance refers to the standard that students should be able to know and be able to do. Ogunode & Josiah (2023) defined the academic performance of students as the total learning outcome of the students in the educational institutions which includes the knowledge, social and communication skills and ideas acquired and retained through their course of study.

There are many factors responsible for the poor academic performance of students in educational institutions across Nigeria. Some of the factors include; unqualified teachers, inadequate teachers, poor motivation, inadequate infrastructure facilities, poor supervision, leadership styles, student's health status, socio-economic of parents, poor usage of instructional resources and large class size and poor classroom management practices (Ogunode & Edet, 2023).

Discussion:

Impact of impact of insecurity on students' academic performance in tertiary institutions:

Insecurity in tertiary institutions affects the academic performance of students. This assertion is confirmed by Adams et al. (2021), Akor et al. (2021) and Ahaotu & Ogunode (2021) who stated that insecurity has adverse effects on students learning and Oyebode (2012), Okafor, & Okafor, (2011) and Paul & Igwebuikwe (2018) ascertained that insecurity in educational institutions and environment affects students learning because it leads to the unstable academic calendar. Ogunode et al. (2021a) noted that insecurity in Nigeria is contributing to poor quality education because school schemes of work and syllabi are not covered in most educational institutions due to schools closing down. Many educational institutions in the country are always been closed down due to insecurity. The inability of these educational institutions to cover their scheme of work and syllabus is reducing the quality of education. Manga (2019) concluded that insecurity in tertiary institutions has adversely affected the academic and social life of both staff and students on campus. Ahaotu & Ogunode (2021), Ogunode & Kolo (2021), Udoh (2015) and Ekpoh et al. (2020) stressed that insecurity on campus negatively affects the learning processes. It breeds fear and feelings of insecurity amongst students and staff of tertiary institutions and sometimes leads to disruption of the academic calendar. The disruption of learning on the campus threatens the development of the nation because no nation can rise beyond the capacities of its tertiary institutions. Ogunode et al. (2021c) and Mbah et al. (2018) in their study revealed that cult activities influence students' discipline, punctuality and regularity with school programmes and their general academic participation and performance. Ogunode & Chijindu (2022) write that an insecure school environment affects the learning of children. Situations of insecurity trigger

traumatic disorder and toxic stress that affect learning negatively. General school attendance and enrolment are equally affected as parents pull their children out of schools while in some extreme cases, insecurity has led to the closure of schools.

Impact of insecurity on academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions: The job performance of academic staff in the implementation of teaching programmes is affected by the insecurity problems in tertiary institutions. Ohara et al. (2021) noted that the insecurity problem is another major challenge facing the implementation of curriculum studies programmes in tertiary institutions. The teaching programme of the University of Jos was suspended due to the instability that occurred in the city as reported by (Oni, 2016).

In the area of research programme job performance of academic staff, Ogunode et al. (2021c) concluded that attacks on academic staff and higher institutions in Nigeria are disrupting the research programme of the higher institutions and that of academic staff in particular. Also, Obi (2015). Ogunode et al. (2020a) noted that insecurity is a major problem affecting the administration of research programmes in Nigerian public universities. Many research programmes in Nigerian public universities have been put on hold or stopped, especially in the universities in the Northern part of Nigeria because of the insecurity challenges leading to the closure of universities. No lecturer can carry out any research activity in an insecure environment. For meaningful research to take place, the lecturers must feel safe and the environment must be conducive and secure.

In the area of community service job performance of academic staff, Ogunode & Kolo (2021) discovered that the insecurity problem in Nigeria and attacks on tertiary institutions are also affecting the development of community service programmes and their implementation in Nigeria. Ogunode (2020a) observed that insecurity is another problem facing the administration of public universities which includes community services in Nigeria. Musa (2018) noted that the attacks on the University of Maiduguri have led to the suspension of the teaching programme several times. Higher institutions are closed down whenever there is an insecurity problem within the campuses caused by either internal or external actors. Akor et al. (2021), Sabiu & Maruf (2021) and Protect Education Attack (2020) concluded that Nigeria is facing an insecurity challenge and this is affecting the entire educational institutions in the country. The attacks on tertiary institutions in Nigeria and attacks on academic staff across the country are leading to disruption of the academic activities of the institutions.

Discussion of Findings:

The result collected from the various literature reviews on the impact of the impact of insecurity on students' academic performance in tertiary institutions revealed that insecurity affected the academic performance of students in tertiary institutions. This finding is in agreement with the discovery by Ogunode & Ndubuisi (2021), Ogunode & Adegboyega (2021), Nwobodo & Udenbunu (2017) and Ojukwu (2017) that concluded that insecurity has implications for students' academic performance in schools. Insecurity has led to learning loss, unstable students learning plans, disruption of learning programmes, suspension of internal and external examinations and suspension of excursion programmes which resulted in poor academic performance according to Ogunode, Umeora & Olatunde-Aiyedun (2022b), Ogunode & Chijindu (2022) and Ogunode & Ukozor (2022b).

Data obtained from the discussion on the impact of insecurity on academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions disclosed that insecurity impacted negatively on the job

performance of academic staff of tertiary institutions. The study specifically revealed that insecurity affected the implementation of teaching programmes, research programmes and community services programmes which are the cardinal functions of academic staff of tertiary institutions. Solomon & Solomon (2021), Manga (2020) and Enang (2019) noted that insecurity creates fear, anxiety, uncertainty, death and disruption of academic activities and programmes etc. These institutions are constantly on fire because of the devilish activities of cult members. Insecurity is a major problem affecting the administration of research programmes in Nigerian public universities.

Many research programmes in Nigerian public universities have been put on hold or stopped, especially in the universities in the Northern part of Nigeria because of the insecurity challenges leading to the close of universities Ogunode, et al. (2021). Ogunode & Ukozor (2022a) noted that research is conducted mostly in the higher institutions' environment to solve problems affecting society. The academic staff is saddled with the responsibility of carrying out research in the universities. Conducting research is one criterion for measuring their performance. Researchers, lecturers and students carrying out different research in the southeast zone have been forced to either suspend the research programme or abandon them because of insecurity problems. Ogunode & Ukozor (2022a) concluded that insecurity affected academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions.

Conclusion:

The study was meant to assess the impact of insecurity on students' academic performance and academic staff job performance in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The study discovered that insecurity affected the student's academic performance and staff job performance in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Recommendations:

Based on these findings, the paper hereby recommends that the government at every level should address all issues fueling insecurity challenges in Nigeria and ensure higher institutions in Nigeria are secure and safe for teaching and learning. The government should invest in higher institutions' securities across the country.

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