

SCHOOL SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA: BENEFITS, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

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Abstract

This paper argues that school security management has a lot of relevance on the overall academic success of students and thus, requires a significant priority by school management. This review examines some of the benefits of school security management as well as the challenges being encountered by school management officials in the process of ensuring school security. The paper after clarifying the key concepts, illustrates that the school facilities that need to be fully secured in the school include the school gate, school fence, classrooms, library and hostels. However, challenges such as lack of maintenance, lack of personnel training, inadequate funds, affect the smooth implementation of school security management. To get rid of these challenges, the paper suggests among other things that the government should make and implement good security policies at all levels of educational institutions in order to provide adequate security atmosphere for the schools to as to establish a secured and favourable climate for teaching and learning that could translate in boosting students' academic achievements.

Keywords: School, Security, Management, Student, Academic, Achievement

Introduction

The concept of school has been described as an educational organization that is made up of people whose common goal is to pursue teaching and learning for the transformation of younger generations to become functional members of their respective societies (Eziuzo, 2018). Secondary school on the other is an educational institution that provides secondary education to children following their successful completion of primary school before proceeding to higher level of education; it therefore, serves as a link between primary and tertiary education (Eziuzo 2018).

The term security signifies the state of being free from danger or threats; it is the activity involved in protecting an individual or a country from attack, danger, fear, and anxiety (Ike, 2015). Ike further states that the concept entails a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or a group can pursue its goal without disruption or harm, and without fear of disturbance or injury. According to Thank God (2018), security can be defined as a condition of freedom from all forms of damage and injury. It means that human resources in the workplace enjoy a certain level of comfort while at work.

The term management has been described by Anyaogu (2021) as the study of human behavior in which managers plan, organize, direct, staff, and control the people, material, and financial resources of an organized group. Based on this viewpoint, management is all about getting things done through people of an organisation. The National policy on Education (2014), illustrates that though management could be viewed as a process by which an organized group directs attention towards the achievement of set organizational goals, the goals of secondary education which include: preparing individuals for useful living in the society and preparing them for higher education, these two goals on the other hand cannot be achieved in an unsecured environment. Therefore, a school environment that is marred by insecurity cannot realistically achieve these set goals of secondary education, it is therefore necessary that educational managers endeavor to put materials together towards ensuring a secure work environment. According to Ogbonna (2018), managers need to continuously manipulate the available resources at their disposal to ensure security of the school system.

The concept of school management can be defined as the process of organizing, planning, leading, reporting, budgeting, and controlling the effort of organization members and using all other available resources to achieve stated objectives (Ogbonna, 2018). The issues of Planning, arranging, and integrating human, financial, temporal, and material resources in a methodical manner to carry out the school programme in order to achieve pre-established learning goals and objectives is known as school management (Onwuchekwa & Onwuchekwa 2018).

School security management is a paramount aspect of an effective school management which has attracted a great deal of attention and concern from learners, educators, teachers, parents, and the public at large (Danatus & Udebunu, 2017). Students are seen as the most important members of educational institutions, as the schools exist primarily for their benefit, they are considered a crucial component of these institutions and are referred to as students because they are enrolled to learn, the school authorities enroll them to acquire knowledge and skills, and upon graduation, they receive a certificate that enables them to pursue further education (Mohammed, & Ogunode, 2022).

The Nigerian system has witnessed a huge amount of changes in the past decades, a quick analysis of the past five decades, reveals that insecurity was not a major issue in the country then, sadly, the past 13 years have witnessed unprecedented rise in insecurity plaguing the entire system and the education sector in particular (Ogunode & Kolo 2021). According to them, there were rampant cases of abduction of hundreds of students, killings of innocent students, and several attacks of armed bandits in the schools.

Therefore, principal been the head of the school that is usually appointed as a result of qualifications and seniority, it is his duty to oversee the proper running of the school in the implementation of educational programmes, provision of proper instruction of school community relation, discipline and proper keeping of school records, students' documentation, finances and creation for conducive learning atmosphere (Jude, & Okoli 2021). Principals as managers must therefore ensure that they are aware of security situations in their school, have a procedure to follow up on the security threats, and must enlighten students, staff and visitors of what steps to take during an emergency (Ukaigwe2018).

Relevance of School Security Management on School Academic Success

For any society or organization to survive, actualize their desire aims and objectives, security management in school played some important roles. These are expatiated as follows:

- I. The implementation of school security management policies enhances the achievement of secondary school goals. This is because, it sets clear security goals and objectives, ensures management commitment to continuously improve safety, brings about continuous improvement in security level, building upon existing security procedures, maintains minimum standard of security management, leads to continuity of organizational processes, and promotion of security consciousness amongst staff and students (Udenwa 2015).
- II. Safety risk management programmes can enhance the quality of the work environment in public schools when security policies are made in school, it helps to curb security threats (Chukwudi 2018).
- III. Prevents the infiltration of weapons and other unlawful equipment, reduced crime rate, violence etc. in schools can eventually reduce insurance claims, law suits, riots etc. and this saves cost.

School Facilities to Be Secured for Achieving Academic Success in Schools

For secondary school students to achieve their desires objectives the followings facilities need to be properly secured for the betterment of the school:

- I. School Gate. A school gate should be boldly and solidly constructed to withstand forceful entry. It should have a separate entry point and an exit point so that people can be checked when they are going in when they are coming out of school without obstructing traffic as in a one-way channel. The entry and exit gates should have strong bars with stop signs attached to force vehicles to stop for security checks. The gate should be well lit at night see all people coming in and going out of the school. A Security Room should be attached to the main gate to provide shelter to security staff at the gate even when it is raining. The security room should also serve as a store to keep weapons and other gadgets that may be required for security duties (Manga, 2019).
- II. School Fence. When an appropriate site is selected, it may be more appropriate to start the construction of school plant by erecting a formidable fence around the perimeter of the school. This will help to establish school boundaries from the start and as well as forestall future incursions into school land by members of the community. This will also help to avoid future boundary clashes between the school and the community with all the possible security implications (Chiaha & Mbanefo, 2013). Providing a strong school fence with only one entry and exit point located at the main gate will help to deter trespassers who would otherwise be passing through the school compound from different routes. A high solid wall with security spikes or barbed wiring or other sharp objects at the top will discourage those who might wish to jump or climb the school fence. Electrical fences with warning signs may also be considered.
- III. Classrooms. One of the sole objective for school is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for student and a safe work place for teacher several times, the demarcation between a tragedy and normal school day depends on how

teachers address security in their own classroom. This shows that what present a threat to classrooms are not necessarily the results of external attacks, this situation is not limited to secondary schools and colleges in Nigeria alone, but equally obtains in Africa and globally, several teaching materials may sometimes pose danger to the classrooms, students and teachers (Manga 2019).

- IV. **Library:** The school library is one of the basic ancillary services that should be provided in educational institutions. In every level of education, be it pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary, books appropriate to the age of students of such school should be provided (Asiegbu, 2014). The school library can be seen as a room or building in a school where books, magazines, journals, periodical, cassettes, films, filmstrips and projectors are stored for students use. In other words, it is a central laboratory of the whole school which stakes books in all subject areas, including non-book materials (Oboegbulem, in Asiegbu, 2014).
- V. **Hostels.** This is a cheap boarding accommodation facility provided for students (Stephen & Zotorvie, 2017). Hostel accommodation is conceived to keep students within the learning environment to facilitate ease of accessing the education facilities (Philip et al., 2018). According to Owolabi (2015), a study revealed that hostel accommodation enhances academic success, especially among the students of poor background as it blends this category of students with the brilliant ones, improve students social value through enhanced interactions, expose students to resource management, and prepared students for self-reliance and leadership resilience.

Challenges Associated with the School Facilities Security Management

In spite of the fact that school security management and facilities are provided to enhance the students' academic achievement, still the following problems confront the process:

- I. **Lack of maintenance.** The principal, being the chief academic and administrative officer of the secondary school system in Nigeria, has the responsibility of not only planning school plant but also the maintenance, ensuring that the school environment is conducive for the teaching and learning process, most of them lack maintenance culture of the schools' facilities that will enhances the academic achievement for secondary school student (Ekpoh, 2018).
- II. **Lack of personnel training.** Training programmes for personnel such as workshops, conferences and seminars can lead to setback for the academic achievement for secondary school students.
- III. **Inadequate funds.** The success or failure of any school maintenance programme hinges on finance. In most cases, funding of facility maintenance is often given less attention by those whose responsibility it is to provide funds. The seriousness of this problem is acknowledged noted that, the costs of managing school facilities have historically received much less attention than facility planning. This serves as another setback to academic achievement for secondary school students (Lackney & Picus 2019).

Conclusion

It is worth concluding that school security management is of much value in that the implementation of school security management policies could enhance the achievement of secondary school goals. Similarly, safety risk management programme can enhance the quality of the work environment in public schools when security policies are made in school, it helps to curb security threats. It was also established that security practices prevent the infiltration of weapons and other unlawful equipment, reduced crime rate, violence etc. In schools can eventually reduce insurance claims, law suits, riots etc. and this saves cost. The paper also highlighted the school facilities to be secured for academic achievement of secondary school students to include school gate, school fence, classrooms, library, hostels. However, challenges such as lack of maintenance, lack of personnel training, inadequate funds, affect the smooth implementation of school security management. If the recommendations are properly followed, the challenges could be overcome and much success could be recorded.

Suggestions/Recommendations

Based on the identified challenges, the paper hereby recommends that:

- I. The school principals and teachers should be trained to acquire knowledge in school security management to enhance academic achievement for secondary school students.
- II. School facilities maintenance should be a joint responsibility of principals and teachers.
- III. The ministry of education should carefully consider the security of school when planning out a school site.
- IV. Government should make and implement good security policies at all levels of education.
- V. Regular in-service trainings on security management should be organized for teachers by the ministry of education.
- VI. Government should provide enough funds to manage school security problems.

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