

Effect of Insecurity on Library Services in the North Central Universities, Nigerian

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated effect of insecurity on library services in Nigerian universities. In carrying out this study three objectives were posed. Ascertain the causes of insecurity that affects the library services, identify the effect of insecurity on library services and determine the measures used to reduce the effect of insecurity on library services. Descriptive survey research design and Online Structure Questionnaire was utilized to solicit data. The population of the study comprised of one hundred and forty Federal university library staff in the North Central. The findings revealed various causes of insecurity in the universities libraries such as cultism among students causes insecurity in the university libraries/ insurgency causes insecurity around the university community /community disaster and dispute among the people within the university community cause insecurity, indecency dress causes insecurity/ religious and ethnic fanatics within the university community cause insecurity. It also discovered that insecurity elongate university calendar, insecurity destabilizes staff motivation for better performance in the library, insecurity affect regular opening and closure time of library, insecurity affect regular user patronage to the library, insecurity affects general staff training in the library, insecurity stimulates theft and wreckage of resources in library. The study discovered some measures in order to reduces insecurity in the university library with include among others improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity. This study recommended that overall security of the library should be seen by all the staff as a combined responsibility. The security of the library should not be left unaided to an individual or management. This will make the staff to be security cognisant at all times among others.

KEYWORDS: Effect; Insecurity; Library; Services; University; North Central; Insurgency; Nigerian.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a massive population in West Africa that is made up of 36 states plus a federal capital area. It is household to numerous diverse ethnic and cultural groupings. Nigeria assertions a total of 79 private institutions, 48 state universities, 43 federal universities, and 48 state universities, according to Statista (2021). Nigeria has faced security issues since 2009, and there has been extensive support for government action to address the issue of insecurity. This might not be unrelated to the rise in political competition, religious intolerance, and ethnic hatred, as well as the growing discontent among the populace who believe the government hasn't done enough to raise living standards (Onifade, Imhonopi, and Urim, 2013). Due to the system's retrogression, this has negatively impacted the overall economy and all organizations, including universities and other higher education establishments. According to Udoh (2015), insecurity is the state of being vulnerable to harm or danger. The term "insurgence" was foreign to Nigerian society. The central nervous system of any tertiary educational establishment is the library. In particular, universities, polytechnics, and colleges. At every stage of human development, it is also an essential component of human education. Libraries are information hubs that support learning in all educational environments; in fact, they are a living, breathing component of the overall initiative to advance security and peace in Nigeria. The National Policy on Education (2004), which outlines the purpose of a library, is in favour of this proposal.

- a. promote the improvement of reading abilities
- b. encourage the readers to appreciate reading
- c. serve as a resource for knowledge on the topic
- d. serve as an intellectual development clinic

Nigeria's ethno-religious conflict is one example of insecurity. Additional is the turmoil caused by various religions. One more

sign of insecurity is political instability since political actions in the past have given rise to terror attacks, devastation, and fatalities by the infamous group "Boko Haram: Today, the bombings in Nigeria are a sad commentary. They have recently targeted the United Nations building in Abuja, the Nigerian Police Headquarters in Abuja, the Madalla Christmas Day explosion on August 26, 2011, and numerous other locations throughout the country. Therefore, it is crucial for different ethnic and religious groups to work together peacefully in order to prevent the violence and recurrent crises, which are all seen as signs of insecurity, as well as development hindrances. There is a drought in literature in the area of library security, particularly the use of modern technologies in restriction the issues of thefts, mutilation and vandalism of library information resources in academic libraries in the developing nations of the world. Therefore, this study aims to bridge this gap by investigating the effect of insecurity on library services in the North Central University Nigeria.

Statement of the Problems

Libraries in Nigeria encounter numerous obstacles. The development of libraries has been put in jeopardy by this, yet solutions are needed to resurrect the afflicted problems. A significant issue like insecurity has recently come up for debate because it affects every part of life. Without a calm environment, no institution or society can advance (Buhari, 2020). The normal services that many university libraries offer have been hampered by insecurity. Additionally, it lowers the level of pleasure that staff and users receive harms the future of libraries and the academic system overall as a result. This makes the researchers realize how important it is to investigate how insecurity affects library services in particular North Central Universities in Nigerian.

Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the effect of insecurity on library services in the North Central universities,

Nigeria. Other specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To ascertain the causes of insecurity that affects the library services in the North central, universities, Nigeria.
2. To identify the effect of insecurity on library services in the North central universities, Nigeria.
3. To determine the measures used to reduce the effect of insecurity on library services the North central universities, Nigeria.

Scope of the study

The scope of the study covers only Federal University in the North Central Zone, Nigeria. North Central is one of the six geo-political region in Nigeria that has seven federal universities such as; (1) Federal University of Agriculture Bauchi State (2) Federal University Lokoja Kogi State (3) Federal University Lafia, Nasarawa State (4) Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State (5) University of Jos, Plateau State (6) University of Ilorin, Ilorin Kwara State (7) University of Abuja, Federal Capital, Abuja. The universities under study are located in the North Central, Nigeria. The scope was chosen based on the observation of the researchers, regular insecurity encounters and to provide relevant information for the study.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The operations of Boko Haram, a militant Islamic group, have created an insecurity issue in Nigeria. According to Borgman (2000), Boko haram insecurity has been linked to several incidents of suicide bombings, car and arson attacks, kidnappings, and mass shootings in villages across the nation. Akor et al (2021) reported that many university facilities like classrooms, administration blocks, ICT facilities, tables, chairs, and instructional materials have been destroyed by bandits in many of the affected areas. University sites had been damaged by the changing weather and climate as grasses have grown thick and students and facilities in educational institutions in Northern states across the

country (Mahmud, et al, 2020). The significance of security to a country's economic health country and her people cannot be underlined enough. For numerous countries worldwide, security continues to be a crucial problem that causes them tremendous anxiety. No country or community can claim to be totally immune to the issue that results from insecurity. Over the past twenty years, various security challenges have been faced by countries such as Israel, North Korea, the USA, Russia, and South Korea. These causes include transnational violence, as well as instances of terrorism, kidnapping, insurgency, and socio-ethnic-religious crises in Kenya, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Nigeria (Isaactomason, 2022).

Since Nigeria returned to democracy in 1999, the problem of security has taken centre stage (Joseph, 2013). According to the 2014 Global Report on Security, Nigeria is among the nations most plagued by high-profile crimes worldwide, including kidnapping, election-related violence, terrorism, insurgency, banditry, and Book Haram. In Nigeria, these illicit activities severely impacted the foundation of all systems and subsystems, including the educational system. The world is accomplished in a tranquil, friendly, safe, and secure setting. Additionally, teachers and students may experience negative effects that could impair students' academic performance if there is an underlying sense of insecurity both inside and outside the school system. Abubakar, et al (2022) in their study identified illiteracy, terrorism, poverty, weak state institutions, injustice, and foreign influence are some of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The study further, suggested that the management at all levels and relevant stakeholders must put their hands on the desk to cubing the menace of insecurity in Nigerian society

Likewise, Mahmud et al (2020) in their study opined the followings factors were responsible for effect of insecurity on library services which include, community crisis and feud among the people within the university community causes in security was

rated($X=3.91$), terrorism threat around the university community causes insecurity ($X=3.86$), insurgency causes insecurity around the university community($X=3.63$), students protest in the university community($X=3.4$), religious and ethnic fanatics within the university community ($X=2.8$), cultism among students causes insecurity in the university libraries($X=2.77$). Here are some specific examples of how insecurity has impacted library services in Nigerian universities: In 2017, the University of Maiduguri was forced to close its library for two weeks after Boko Haram militants attacked the campus, in 2018, the University of Ibadan was forced to reduce its library hours after a series of armed robberies in the area and in 2019, the University of Jos was forced to close its library after a student was killed in a riot on campus. Manga (2019); Osaat & Peter (2021) have noted that a number of issues, including but not limited to a weak security system, corruption, unemployment, porous borders, poverty, and religious fanaticism, are to blame for the ongoing state of instability. It is common knowledge that numerous institutes in Northern Nigeria have been impacted by insecurity. The latest kidnapping of 110 Dapchi female students and the sly kidnapping of over 300 females in a Chibok hostel on April 14, 2014, and February 29, 2016 were reported by Iyabo (2018). Recently, Nigeria has faced serious security issues from Boko Haram and bandits who raided schools and abducted pupils in Tegin, Niger State. The trend and dynamics of insecurity in Nigeria are concerning, especially in light of the numerous security challenges in the polity. On February 7th, for example, 42 people including students, teachers, and family members were abducted by bandits from Science College Kagara, Niger State; they were freed after ten days in captivity (Premium Time, 2021). According to Best (2016), severe violence is characterized by fighting, warfare, injuries, and deaths. Insecurity is a worsened stage of conflict, threats, and attacks on human

security. In these kinds of schools, insecurity poses a hazard that adversely impacts instruction and learning activities (Ogunode, et al, 2021). Numerous reasons have been cited by Adam et al (2021) and Akor et al (2021) as sources of insecurity in Nigeria. These include, but are not limited to: a weak state; inadequate institutions; poverty; lack of education; religious extremism and violence; communal crises; porous borders; militancy; terrorism; kidnapping; armed banditry; a deficient judiciary; a deficient security system; foreign influence; poor governance; corruption; farmer-herder conflict; schools as vulnerable targets; inequality; drug abuse; injustice; political factor; and, of course, the globalization of insecurity.

The impact of insecurity on library services in Nigerian universities is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. The government, universities, and the community all need to work together to find ways to improve security so that libraries can operate safely and effectively. Similarly, Mahmudu, et al (2020) in their study effect of insecurity on library services in selected university in Nigeria assertion that, majority of the respondents agreed that university should collaborate with government and other security agencies for assistance in reducing the effect of insecurity in the library ($X=3.91$), improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity ($X=3.84$), increase number of electronic security system in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity ($X=3.53$), sensitize and orient library users on the insecurity challenges faced in university and library environment ($X=3.3$) and provide consistence security training and retraining for library staff to reduce negative effect of insecurity ($X=2.97$).

Moreover, universities have implemented various measures to reduce the effect of insecurity on library services. These measures can be categorized into three main areas: physical security, procedural security, and technological security. Also, Patrick and Victor

(2020) in their study recommended that libraries and librarians should be in the forefront of national security discourses through sponsorship, guiding principle and acts that can further the country's national security Likewise, Udoh (2015) emphasized measures to curb insecurity in the libraries such as access control, surveillance systems, security guards, secure storage for valuable materials, inventory control, clear policies, staff training and awareness, as security tags and electromagnetic gates, reporting and investigating among others. Through implementing a comprehensive combination of physical, procedural, and technological security measures, universities can effectively reduce the effect of insecurity on library services, safeguard their valuable resources, and ensure a safe and secure learning environment for their students, faculty, and researchers.

Why is it necessary to research how insecurity affects library services in Nigeria's North Central universities? Anything that happens to a mother is thought to have an immediate impact on the child. Therefore, the university system would be impacted, either directly or indirectly, if Nigeria experienced insecurity problems. Because they are a component of the entire university system, the library services offered there may consequently be hampered, which would result in poor quality services for the consumers. The services that libraries offer, such cataloging, consulting, classification, reference, and circulation, may even lapse, resulting in routines that fall short of expectations. In this situation, it is crucial to

conduct the study that will outline the detrimental effects of insecurity on libraries and to plan ahead for any eventual security challenges that may arise. This will enhance the role that libraries play in enhancing the services that the university offers.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study used descriptive survey research design it is appropriate to provides detail explanation of events. Seven (7) Federal universities in the North central were chosen to represent the population for the study (see below Table 1). One hundred and forty (140) library staff were responded and use for the study. The instrument for the study is an Online Structured Questionnaire (OSQ) with Likert scale headings of = Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The OSQ was used to collect data and administered online via two research assistant (Staff) in each of the universities under study. Who was able to compile whatsapp phone numbers so as to use for sending the link tothe OSQ to be filled and submitted? Google software was used to develop the OSQ. A Cronbach alpha index of 0.7 was obtained to determine the reliability of the OSQ. For the responses, it was based on four (4)-point rating scale, a mid-point mean of 2.5 was used as positive response criterion mean and accepted as a positive response because the average of individual mean score was 2.5. For clarity, each item was presented in a table and all findings were presented as the table reveal.

Table 1: Population for the Study

| S.N. | Names of the University | Library Staff |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Federal University of Agriculture | 20 |
| 2 | Federal University Lokoja | 20 |
| 3 | Federal University Lafia | 20 |
| 4 | Federal University of Technology Minn | 20 |
| 5 | University of Jos | 20 |
| 6 | University of Ilorin, Ilorin | 20 |
| 7 | University of Abuja, Abuja | 20 |
| | TOTAL | 140 |

Sources: 2021–2022 Academic Session

The populations of this study are the 140 library employees of the chosen university under investigation, as indicated in table 1 above. The following is a breakdown of the number of library employees in a particular North central university, Nigerian: Federal

University of Agriculture (20) Federal University Lokoja (20); Federal University Lafia (20); Federal University of Technology Minna (20) University of Jos (20); University of Ilorin, Ilorin (20) and University of Abuja, Abuja (20).

Question 1: What are the Causes of Insecurity that Affect the Library Services in the North Central Universities, Nigeria?

Table 2: Causes of Insecurity that Affect the Library Services

| Causes of Insecurity | SA | A | D | SD |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Indecency dress causes insecurity | 132(94.2%) | - | - | 8(5.7%) |
| Illegal arms around the university community | - | - | 11(7.8%) | 129(92.1%) |
| Unemployment in the university community | - | - | 17(12.1%) | 123(87.8%) |
| Students protest in the university community | 118(84.2%) | 22(15.7%) | - | - |
| Community disaster and dispute among the people within the university community | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Cultism among students causes insecurity in the university libraries | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Insurgency causes insecurity around the university community | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Religious and ethnic fanatics within the university community causes insecurity. | 132((94.2%) | 8(5.7%) | - | - |

Key: SA= Strongly Agree; A= Agree; SD= Strongly Disagree; D= Disagree

When asked about causes of insecurity that affect the library services in the North Central Universities libraries, 140(100%) of the respondents strongly agree that cultism among students causes insecurity in the university libraries/ insurgency causes insecurity around the university community /community disaster and dispute among the people within the university community cause insecurity. More so, 132(94.2%) of the

respondents strongly agree that indecency dress causes insecurity/ religious and ethnic fanatics within the university community cause insecurity. Whereas 129(92.1%) of the respondents strongly disagree that illegal arms around the university community, 123(87.8%) of the respondent strongly disagree that unemployment in the university community were not responsible for insecurity in the universities understudy.

Research Question 2: What are the Effect of Insecurity on Library Services in the North Central Universities, Nigeria?

Table 3: Effect of Insecurity on Library Services

| Effects of Insecurity on Library Services | SA | A | D | SD |
|--|-----------|---|---|-----------|
| Insecurity elongate university calendar | 140(100%) | - | - | |
| Insecurity create poor cataloguing and reference services provision in the library | - | - | - | 140(100%) |
| Insecurity damages information sharing in the library | - | - | - | 140(100%) |
| Insecurity destabilizes staff motivation for better performance in the library | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Insecurity affect regular opening and closure time of library | 140(100%) | - | - | - |

| | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|---|---|
| Insecurity stimulates theft and wreckage of resources in library | 121(86.4%) | 19(13.5%) | - | - |
| Insecurity affect regular user patronage to the library | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Insecurity affects general staff training in the library | 131(93.5%) | 9(6.4%) | - | - |

Key: SA= Strongly Agree; A= Agree; SD= Strongly Disagree; D= Disagree

The table 3 shows that majority of the respondents strongly agree that insecurity elongate university calendar 140(100%), insecurity destabilizes staff motivation for better performance in the library 140(100%), insecurity affect regular opening and closure time of library 140(100%), insecurity affect regular user patronage to the library

140(100%), insecurity affects general staff training in the library 131(93.5%), insecurity stimulates theft and wreckage of resources in library 121(86.4%). Whereas, 140(100%) of the respondents strongly disagree that insecurity damages information sharing in the library and insecurity create poor cataloguing and reference services provision in the library.

Research Question 3: What are the Measures Used to reduce the Effects of Insecurity on Library Services in the North Central Universities in Nigeria?

Table 4: Measures Used to reduce the Effects of Insecurity on Library Services

| Measure to Reduce the Effect of Insecurity | SA | A | D | SD |
|--|------------|------------|---|-----------|
| Improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Provide consistence security training and retraining for library staff to reduce negative effect of insecurity | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Sensitize and orientate library users on the insecurity challenges | 111(78.1%) | 29(20.7%) | - | - |
| Electromagnetic gates | 140(100%) | - | - | - |
| Closure of the library to reduce negative effect of insecurity | - | - | - | 140(100%) |
| Staff training and awareness as security tags | 13(9.2%) | 127(90.7%) | - | - |
| University should collaborate with government and other security agencies for assistance in reducing the effect of insecurity in the library | 140(100%) | - | - | - |

Key: SA= Strongly Agree; A= Agree; SD= Strongly Disagree; D= Disagree

The table 4 shows that majority of the respondents strongly agree on the measure used to reduce the effects of insecurity on library services in the North central universities such as improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity/provide consistence security training and retraining for library staff to reduce negative effect of insecurity/electromagnetic gates/university should collaborate with government and other security agencies for assistance in reducing the effect of insecurity in the library 140(100%),

while 111(78.1%) of the respondents strongly agree that sensitize and familiarise library users on the insecurity challenges and 127(90.7%) of the respondent agree that staff training and awareness as security tags. Although, 140(100%) of the respondents strongly disagree that closure of the library to reduce negative effect of insecurity would not serve as a measure to reduced insecurity.

IV. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The findings of the study showed that universities libraries in the North central faced

diverse insecurity challenges such as cultism among students causes insecurity in the university libraries/ insurgency causes insecurity around the university community /community disaster and dispute among the people within the university community cause insecurity, indecency dress causes insecurity/ religious and ethnic fanatics within the university community cause insecurity, and illegal arms around the university community. The outcome of this study conform to that of Mahmud et al 2020; Akor et al 2021 and Abubakar, et al 2022); Isaactomason, 2022) who in their study identified community crisis and feud among the people within the university community causes in security, terrorism threat around the university community causes insecurity, insurgency causes insecurity around the university community, students protest in the university community, religious and ethnic fanatics within the university community, cultism among students causes insecurity in the university libraries, instances of terrorism, kidnapping, insurgency, and socio-ethnic-religious crises.

The findings revealed the effect of insecurity on library services, which includes insecurity elongate university calendar, insecurity destabilizes staff motivation for better performance in the library, insecurity affect regular opening and closure time of library, insecurity affect regular user patronage to the library, insecurity affects general staff training in the library and insecurity stimulates theft and wreckage of resources in library. This is in consonance with the finding of Ogunode, et al, 2021; Adam et al 2021 and Akor et al 2021) who in their study acknowledged that inadequate institutions; poverty; lack of education; religious extremism and violence; communal crises; porous borders; militancy; terrorism; kidnapping; armed banditry; a deficient judiciary; a deficient security system; foreign influence; poor governance; corruption; farmer-herder conflict; schools as vulnerable targets; inequality; drug abuse;

injustice; political factor; and, of course, the globalization of insecurity.

The findings further showed measures used to reduced effect of insecurity in the libraries such as improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity/provide consistence security training and retraining for library staff to reduce negative effect of insecurity/electromagnetic gates/university should collaborate with government and other security agencies for assistance in reducing the effect of insecurity in the library, sensitize and familiarise library users on the insecurity challenges, staff training and awareness as security tags. This is agree with the finding of Udoh 2015; Patrick and Victor 2020 and Mahmud et al 2021) who found out that university should collaborate with government and other security agencies for assistance in reducing the effect of insecurity in the library, improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity, increase number of electronic security system in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity, sensitize and orient library users on the insecurity challenges faced in university and library environment and provide consistence security training and retraining for library staff to reduce negative effect of insecurity.

V. CONCLUSION

The outcome of this study established the fact that institutional libraries in Nigeria are faced with numerous insecurity that affects the library services which have worked against the prime delivery of intellectual output. The study apart from adding to existing literature provides a thoughtful of the effect of insecurity and measures used to reduce the effect. The main measures acknowledged include as improve number of physical security personnel in the library to reduce the negative effect of insecurity/provide consistence security training and retraining for library staff to reduce negative effect of insecurity/electromagnetic gates/university

should collaborate with government and other security agencies for assistance in reducing the effect of insecurity in the library, sensitize and familiarise library users on the insecurity challenges among others. Given the foregoing, the following.

Recommendations were made:

1. The overall security of the library should be seen by all the staff as a combined responsibility. The security of the library should not be left unaided to an individual or management. This will make the staff to be security cognisant at all times.
2. The institutions should request more money for the library from the university administration. Additionally, the library needs to raise money from corporate organizations and set aside enough money in its budget to put security gadgets with the institutions.
3. Proper orientation should be given to the students, and society by the National Orientation Agency on the negative effect of crime and violence.

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