

## Communicating Security Awareness Among Management of Tertiary Institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Rivers State

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### Abstract

The Continuous existence of insecurity challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century among tertiary institutions necessitated the concerned attention of educational stakeholders. It is against this background that this study investigated communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Three research questions and three hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 370 principal administrative lecturers from (6) (six) public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Stratified Random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 128 principal administrative lecturers from 6 (six) public tertiary institutions in Rivers State who participated for the study. A self- structured questionnaire titled “Communicating Security Awareness Among Management of Tertiary Institutions Questionnaire (CSAAMTIQ)” was used for the study. CSAAMTIQ was validated by experts and Cronbach alpha was used to establish the reliability index at 0.80. Means and standard deviation as well as rank order were used to answer the research questions while Z-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study among others revealed that there is need for adequate financial management of resources in meeting the maintenance culture of academic and non-academic activities within the institutions. It was concluded that poor communication system between the school management, staff and students are attributed to continuous motivation of corrupt and authoritative style of leadership. It was recommended among others that government at all levels show genuine political will by providing adequate funding for effective and efficient management of tertiary institutions towards meeting the demands of educational stakeholders.

**Keywords:** Communication, security awareness, management, Tertiary Institutions.

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### Introduction

Security awareness and management of tertiary institutions are two sided coins which are geared towards corporate existence and human development. The implication is that management of tertiary education cannot function effectively and efficiently without adequate security networking within and outside the institutions. Security acted as an umbrella seeking to protect lives and properties of the staff and students within the institutions. Interestingly, security awareness gives the staff and students necessary information and knowledge that will give guide and enforce their daily movement within the schools and among host community. Security management in the Tertiary Institution is the process of protecting the human and material resources from harm or danger towards effective and efficient investment in teaching, research and community development. security management is also the process of identification and protecting the assets (for example, people, buildings,

machines, system & information) of Tertiary institutions to prevent risk through development, documentation and implementation of policies and procedure by the regulating agencies (Moore in Nnorom, Ezenwagu & Nwankwo, 2020). The relevance of security management in Nigerian Tertiary institutions include,

- It provides conducive teaching and learning environment where social and physical harm are highly regulated.
- It guarantees uninterrupted academic calendar for regular graduation and production of professional manpower.
- It ensures peaceful and stable environment that promotes profitable research and community activities for development of individuals, Institutions and Nation building.
- It allows for optimal functioning of human and material resources as distortion resulting from harm on human and material or theft towards effective institutional improvement (Mohammed, Nguyen, Melewar & Gambetti, 2018; Nnorom, Ezenwagu & Nwankwo, 2020).

Therefore, from the above assertions, security management is regarded as a peace building mechanism that promote proper coordination, connectivity and productive efforts among Nigerian tertiary institutions towards goal attainment. Thus, tertiary institutions are the institution of higher learning after secondary education charged with the mandate of developing quality manpower through the award of certificates, diploma, first degree and higher degrees. Example of tertiary institutions are Universities, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Monotechnic. Federal Republic of Nigeria (1998) defines Tertiary Education to include the Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Monotechnic in Higher Education. It's also generally accepted that the academic activities within the tertiary institutions will be systematically culminated in the receipt of certificates, Diploma, or academic degrees emanating from rigorous training and imparting of knowledge in respective area of disciplines (Nwakpa, 2015).

However, the manpower developed and produced by the tertiary institutions serves as the catalyst for positive change that generate return on educational investment for Nation building. Fortunately, these tertiary institutions are cited in Towns and Villages in Rivers State which require proper security awareness among the citizens. With proper security awareness, there is need for effective communication and formation of properly established Information Security Management System (ISMS) that will provide necessary information to guide, protect and preserve the lives and properties of staff and students. Eze and Aroh (2020) remarks that Information Security Management System (ISMS) determines the requirements any organization must establish, implement, operate, monitor, review, maintain and improve information on management of security related activities. The above assertion also suggested that ISMS can sustain peace building mechanism through security management and promote conducive learning environment towards the actualization of the goals of tertiary institutions. Some of the goals of tertiary education as specified in Federal Republic of Nigeria (2013) National Policy on Education include;

- 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 interest of Nigerians
- Provide high quality career counselling and lifelong learning opportunity that prepares students with knowledge and skills for self-reliance.
- Reduce skills shortage through the production of relevant skilled workers
- Promote and encourage scholarship, entrepreneurship and community service.
- Forge and cement national unity; and
- Promote of national and international understanding and interaction

The above goals are print of actions that guide the establishment and management of tertiary institutions in Nigeria towards manpower training and national development. Similarly, for these goals to achieved, there is need for proper communication and security awareness among the stakeholders of educational institutions. With this awareness, it will reduce threat to lives and promote conducive learning environment where all Individuals with collective interests can be secured and protected. Adegoke (2014) revealed that the primary purpose of government of any Nation is the provision of security and welfare of the citizens. The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1999 revealed that the security and welfare of the citizens shall be the primary purpose of the three tiers of Government (that is, Federal, State & Local government).To sustain this responsibility, the government delegate this duty of maintenance of internal security to Nigeria Police Force but unfortunately, poor funding promotes incapableness and inefficiency which hinder development of the force .Ujomu in Adagbabiri and Okolie (2018:51) revealed that good evidence of insecurity in Nigeria is the manifestation of incapability

and inefficiency of Nigeria Police Force due to its failure to maintain law and order as well as to provide security for the welfare of the citizens.

The genesis of security and insecurity in Nigeria begins with regional segregation and ethnic sentiment that is not based on Federal Character Principles (FCP). The Federal Character Principles ensure that there is fairness, equity and justness on allocation of resources and appointments of political leadership positions at various regions. Chukwuma in Kayode (2015) revealed that merits of Federal Character Principle (FCP) include; (a) provision of equitable formula for distribution of socio-economic service and infrastructural facilities (b) provide modalities for addressing regional imbalances (c) ensures equitable admission into federal universities, (d) ensure that no one section of the society unduly dominated the elective or appointive positions, (e) provide equal access Armed Force, police etc., to protect the interests of minority ethnic groups. (f) ensure even spread of the recruitment process into federal civic service among civil servants (g) ensure corporate existence of Nigeria without unnecessary centripetal agitations (civil war) (p.37). Pessimistically, major ethnic groups and ruling class in Nigerian state may have become so selfish and rude to implement the merits of Federal Character Principles thereby employed a system of marginalization, humiliation, corruption and oppression of minority groups. The oppression of the minority groups leads to formation of interest groups at various regional levels. Example of these interest groups are; Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta Region (MEND, South-South), Indigenes People of Biafra (IPOB, South-East), O'dua People Congress (OPC, South-West) and Arewa Youth Congress (AYC, North). These interest groups or organizations were made up of youths who are virtually unemployed, poor and frustrated system of government that exploits their resources, pollute their environment and leave their areas underdeveloped (Ukponh-Umo, 2016).

Bilyamunu, Iya and Purokayo (2017) upheld that the activities of insurgency have indirectly and significantly affected human capital development in the tertiary institutions. The human capital development is affected through low school attendance, school enrolment and poor state of school infrastructure as well as poor quality of education in Nigeria. Related studies revealed that due to the activities of insurgency, 1,200 schools within the Northern parts of Nigeria have been destroyed, 319,000 children were denied access to safe learning environment and 195,029 of school age were displaced thereby exposed them to challenge of poor quality of education within the region (UNICEF, 2016, Adepelumi, 2018 & Mevayerore, 2020). Additionally, In, Rivers State, five secondary school teachers, were abducted at gunpoint which created tension and fear among citizens. Iheanachor (2015), Adesula (2019) and Ajani (2021) upheld that about 2,295 teachers have been killed and 19,000 were displaced in Borno and Yobe States between 2009 to 2018. Also, a total estimate of 1,500 schools had been since destroyed in 2014 with over 1,280 casualties were found among teachers and students. All these attacks exposed the school to high rate of vulnerability which affect declined in school enrolment between 2012 to 2016.

Today, the managers of the tertiary institutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century have experienced insecurity on the school campuses on daily basis due to failure of Government at all levels to execute constitutional responsibilities. With the insecurity on the school campuses, there is formation of cult related activities such as initiation of members, stealing, armed robbing, kidnapping for ransom, raping of female students, daily attacked and killing of students which is not healthy for academic activities. Agbaegbu and Ihechu (2020) reaffirmed that the existence of insecurity in the tertiary institutions have promoted wave of cultism, kidnapping, terrorism, raping of students, building collapse and all manners of ethical ills which negatively affected staff, students and host community collectively. Bhola (2017) further revealed that due high level of insecurity, many tertiary institutions have been attacked, vandalized, bombed and closed down to preserved the lives of staff and students. The implication is that the existence of insecurity has threatened the societal development and educational institutions at large. Therefore, it is against this backdrop that the paper seeks to investigate how effective communication can guaranteed security awareness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century among management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Every organization either private or public sectors need effective communication. Communication is the process of transmitting shared ideas, thoughts, and understanding between two parties (that is sender & receiver). Communication promotes social interaction and dissemination of information between people from different ethnic background. Communication is a social process that people use to exchange vital information, message and shared meaning about their thoughts, ideas, opinions, feelings from one person to another. (Porter & Robert, 1976; Manning, 1992; Hoy & Miskel, 2008). Communication is also the transmission of information, shared meaning and understanding from one person to another (Abraham, 2013 & Nwabueze, 2017). Communication is the process that sustain the exchange of information and shared meaning between a sender and receiver (Nyeche, 2014; Obi & Jabher-Nwapi, 2020).

However, from the scholarly definition, it is accepted that communication is the life wire and promotional tools that link the staff, students and the host community together to be consciously aware of any activities within the school environment. Auyo, Idris, Mato & Ibrahim, (2020) remarks that communication play vital roles in the maintenance of security and national development. Hoy & Miskel (2008) stressed that communication play vital role in tertiary institution in terms of production and regulation, innovation and socialization as well as maintenance purposes. Walson & Ajekere (2020) upheld that production and regulation purposes ensured that the primary task of teaching and learning process achieve its set objective. Innovation purpose refers to generating new ideas, changing programmes, structure and procedure for competitive academic performance. Socialization and maintenance purpose established interpersonal relationship, self-esteem and motivation integrating the goals of the school as well as goals of the individuals towards collective achievements. Furthermore, with effective communication, there is exchange of idea, transmission of information and general awareness among educational stakeholders towards goal attainment.

Onyido (2013) remarked that awareness is the ability to perceive, feel or be conscious of event, activities, object or sensory pattern. Awareness is the process of sensitizing, educating and enlightening staff, students and general public on the dangers associated with security on school campuses. Security means to be safe, secured, protected and to enjoy peace of life; that is, the state of being or feelingly secure/ freedom from fear, anxiety, danger, doubt, something that gives or assurances, safety, tranquility, danger, certainty, protection and safeguard (Ike, 2015; Agbaegbara & Iheehu, 2020). Oni (2010) remarked that security is a condition of being protected physically, emotionally, psychologically as well as adequately safe from other harm, attack, terror which could be considered as non-desirable. Akintude and Musa (2016) emphasized that security is perceived as a basic human need that contributes towards teaching and learning process. Ajani (2021) further agreed that secured school environment is the channel that fosters peaceful, positive or cordial relationship among students, teachers and managers of tertiary institutions. Unfortunately, the academic activities within the tertiary institutions are at crossed road due to high rate of insecurity. Insecurity is a threat to learning as no Nation can achieve education of sustainability in the face of widespread insecurity (Ajani, 2021). Insecurity is the absence of peace within the country and its continuous existence is masterminded by an organized crime and terrorism (Omitola in Oyeinfie, 2021). Basically, there are sources of insecurity that threaten effective communication and security awareness within the tertiary institutions. The sources are; the school environment is not properly fenced, there is no provision of link roads within the school campuses, lack of security lights on the major streets, inadequate provision of trained security personnel and non-availability of security patron van.

The above assertion reveals that insecure environment promotes violent attack, vandalization and killing of staff and students on school campuses. United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) (2017) revealed that due to insecure environment, 1,400 schools have been destroyed, damaged or looted primarily in the Northeast and more than 600,000 children have lost access to quality education. Sadiq (2012) also observed that Christian worshippers at Bayero University Kano was attack with heavy weapons in April 2012 due to insecure environment. The attack on Christian worshippers traumatized the University community and the University Management. With the above challenges, University Management Committee (UMC) was convened by the school Management and Committee was formed. The Committee was given mandate to assess the security situation of Bayero University, Kano and indeed, many other Universities. The recommendations of the committee include the following; (i) the porous nature of the Universities campuses threaten security. (ii) There is gross inadequacy of security manpower for daily security operations and patrols along the perimeter walls of university campuses. (iii) The security suffers from inadequate working equipment thereby hampering their performance. (vi) There is no security awareness in the University community. (v) There is apparent hostility exhibited by operators of unauthorized structures around the University campuses. (vi) Poor lightening of the major streets on the University campuses threatens security. Specifically, the committee further observed that many universities in Nigeria suffer the same challenges and the identified sources of insecurity on the school campuses are; (a) there is lack of perimeter wall in a substantial portion of the school land which encourage trespasser. (b) There is lack of perimeter wall in some school campuses and where it exists, the perimeter wall is short and vandalized. (c) There are too many pedestrians. (d) There is inadequate provision of duty posts or houses by security personnel. (e) There are complaints of poor relationship between the security personnel and host community (e) there is no adequate provision for security lighting system within the school campuses (Sadiq 2012, p. 10 &11)

Related studies also revealed that effective communication sustained security awareness but insecurity in tertiary institutions leads to poor communication system between the school authorities, staff and the students. Other factors include, poor funding of tertiary institutions, insufficient and aging of basic social amenities and academic facilities, socialization influence, brain drain and poor attention to the demand of students, ideological and political reasons (Ojo, 1995; Olanosu, 2000; Salami, 2000; Ofordile, 2001; Agbola, Olatubana & Alabi, 2000; Aderimo, 2002; Williams Harnet & Strasser, 2003; Adisa, Okosi & Adernito, 2004; Aluede, Adejani, 2009

& Nwankpa, 2015). Onyenoru (1996) and Nwankpa (2015) also added that the sources of insecurity in Nigerian tertiary institutions include, authoritarian governance arising from the erosion of institutional autonomy; infrastructural collapse and social distortion due to poor funding; poor motivation of staff who contributed towards modeling the behavior of students in demand of the society; impact of the wider moral crisis on the tertiary institutions staff and students; and the precarious socio-psychological mental state of students as youth in social change and their consequent disposition to immediacy.

Thus, in line with the above scholarly assertion, Mshelia and Emmanuel (2022) add that tertiary institutions as a formal organization are headed by different educational administrators for different purposes (e.g., Vice - chancellor heads university system, Provost for Colleges of education while Rector for Polytechnics) and the nature of leadership styles adopted may not be productive at the expense of organizational goals. Similarly, it further reveals that most heads of tertiary institutions in Nigeria adopt authoritative or autocratic style of leadership and by extension not listening to demands and aspiration of the students. Some Chief executive officers also demonstrate inadequate provision of basic social amenities such as water, health facilities, laboratory equipment, etc, act as strain on the actualization of students dreams and aspirations which created crisis situations in most tertiary institutions. For example, it is revealed that due to authoritative style of leadership adopted by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja over non-provision of adequate laboratory equipment for medical and engineering students, there were protest and demonstration thereby denied the accreditation programmes by the National Universities Commission (NUC) (Daily Trust, May 3, 2013).

Related studies revealed that there is inverse relationship between provision of basic facilities and availability of funding in management of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Gbenenyie (2009) stresses that the financial situation of the economy is steadily deteriorated over the years which does not guarantee adequate provision of funds for meet the maintenance culture of academic and non-academic activities in the tertiary institutions. This situation degenerated to the point that the classrooms were almost bare of seats thereby making it impossible to hold lectures and examinations under normal conditions which generate protest, riots and demonstration by the students. Again, constant delay in payment of staff salaries, wage awards and promotion arrears are product of poor funding which provide a fertile ground for protests, demonstrations and insecurity within the institutions (Nnorom, Ezenwagu & Nwankwo, 2020). The above assertions reveals that the history of tertiary institutions in developing nations cannot be completely isolated without demonstrations, riots, protests, violence, industrial action and vand alization of school properties by staff and students over non-provision of basic social amenities and delay in payment of employee entitlements due to poor funding. The poor funding of educational system is regulated by the activities of corrupt practices existing among few unaccountable leaders within the management. Thus, Corruption can be demonstrated through lack of accountability, transparency and responsibility which promote conflicts of interests among educational stakeholders.

Ngwube and Okoli (2013) upheld that the characteristics of corruption includes (a) Giving and receiving bribes (b) inflation of contracts (c) Kick back and payment upfront (d) abuse of public property (e) Lodging government fund in private accounts (f) Examination malpractices (g) Adulterated food or hazardous drugs (h) Misappropriation and embezzlement of fund (i) money laundry by public officers (j) Using proxy names to buy property (p, 98). Agbekaku, Itakpe and Okoye in Adagbabiri and Okolie (2018) added that corruption is now the integral part of Nigeria culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the major sources of its sustenance are; (a) the prevalence of soft state and unaccountable leadership (b) the incursion of politics into the administration (c) Weak institutions of government and informal structure (d) Perception of political office as the primary means of gaining access to wealth (e) conflict of changing values and moral codes (f) the weakness of social and government enforcement mechanism (g) the absence of a strong sense of national commitment and national focus (h) Dysfunctional legal system (I) Ineffective government works with slow budget procedure (j) lack of probity, transparency, responsibility and accountability (k) the great inequality in the distribution of wealth (L) Poor salaries and poor working conditions, with few incentives and rewards for effective and efficient performance (M) The influence of polygamous household and the pressure to meet family obligations which are more in developing Nations (N) The culture and weird value systems of the Nigeria society (o) Widespread poverty (p. 45 & 46).

It is clear from the above assertion that corrupt practices are seen as political tool used in management of Tertiary institutions. This is manifested through imposition of unaccountable leaders either elected or appointed as principal officers on the tertiary institution by the political cabals. These principal officers used their offices as the primary means to generate wealth to sustain the interests of their grandmasters. It is obvious that continuous motivation of corrupt leadership practices in management of tertiary institutions will generate conflict of interests and create security challenges within the system. Interestingly, security remains a challenge and no nation of the world can achieve the goals of sustainable development in the era of insecurity. Presently, Nigeria



is faced with various forms of violence/security challenges such as civil war, election related mayhem, riot and protest, militancy, insurgency and Fulani herdsmen/farmers clashes (Ajani, 2015). The insecurity challenges are commonly found at home and within the school campuses. These insecurity challenges came in form of kidnapping and hostage taken, armed robbers and assassination, sexual assault or rape, cultism, drug abuse, usage of ATM machines, fire outbreak and terror attacks (Orgucha, 2010 & Sadiq, 2012). Again, constant security challenges in Nigeria have given birth to a new form of violence such as Boko Haram, Fulani-Herdsmen and Farmers clashes, bombing and political violence. For example, the activities of Boko Haram are responsible for the death of six thousand (6,000) lives of staff and students of Yobe State University since 2009 and the death rate is still on daily increase (Human Right Watch, 2014 & Bhola, 2017).

Furthermore, there are possible strategies that can be adopted by the management of the tertiary institutions to creates security awareness on school campuses and reduce insecurity to the barest minimum. Sadiq (2012) revealed that these possible strategies that can be adopted by school management to reduce security challenges include; provision of adequate fencing of the school premises, recruitment of competent and professional security personnel, provision of modern working gadgets, training and retraining programmes for personnel, and provision of regular power supply and effective information communication system. The provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will greatly contribute towards generating, distributing, collecting and administer information on maintenance of security surveillance within the tertiary institutions and sustain national development (Sukants, 2012; Labaran & Alhassan, 2017). The roles played by Information Communication Technology (ICT) towards effective and efficient security management of the Nigerian tertiary institutions and by extension societal existence include;

- 1) Providing real opportunities for monitoring all activities at ease by security personnel;
- 2) Strengthening chances and providing opportunities for easy flow of information and new ideas within and outside school system;
- 3) Providing opportunities for security personnel to communicate with one another through up-to-date technologies such as the use of email, SMS, radio, phone, CCTV, etc., so as to provide information concerning security situation in the school environment;
- 4) It also assists to provide quicker and easier access to more extensive current information that can be used academically, administratively, or to carry out security operation at appropriate time;
- 5) Providing security operatives with a steady avenue for the disseminations of security reports and findings (Adeoye, 2013; Labaran & Alhassan, 2017; Auyo, Idris, Mato & Ibrahim 2020)

Thus, from the above observation, the goals of educational system of any Nation are to produces professional manpower adequately prepared to work in 21<sup>st</sup> century and ICT is the powerful instrument that can be used to achieved such goals through security management (Auyo, Idris, Mato & Ibrahim, 2020). Therefore, the integration of Information and Communication Technology in management of tertiary institutions will sustain effective communication among staff and students in term of knowledge creation, knowledge enhancement and knowledge advancement to achieve desire objectives (Barango-Tariah, Davis & Oruwari, 2019). With knowledge creation, knowledge advancement and enhancement of knowledge, staff and students will be properly enlightening and guided on security related activities within and outside the school environment. Shettimah and Adamu (2016) stressed that the role plays by Information and Communication Technology in Nigerian tertiary institutions to combat insurgencies activities cannot be overestimated. This is because the sophisticated and advanced ICT technologies have greatly replaced older forms of security operations and surveillance gadgets. Similarly, Eijkman (2012) added that the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Nigerian tertiary institutions will assist in revealing threats in the society by conveying images, videos and other chosen databases for reporting any abnormal and skeptical wrongdoing for possible necessary measures.

Thus, in an effort to sustain possible necessary measures to promote security awareness, Auyo, Idris, Mato and Ibrahim (2020:78) upheld that many erudite scholars have observed that there is need for installation of ICT facilities in Nigerian tertiary institutions as a counter-measures to regulate insecurity. Such measures include;

- Close Circuit Television (CCTV): CCTV cameras currently used largely in developed countries like United Kingdom and United States and presently coming into developing nations like Nigeria can be used to discover wrongdoing and criminal activities. The instrument can be made to be available not only in public offices, private offices and individual prefices to monitor abnormal behavior (Kemi and Happiness 2016).
- Automated Personal Data Bank (APDB): it is the use of devoted tools and data bases to receive and kept ironed out data, immigrants' information as well as citizens information to enable government have easier access to biometrics of its citizens.

- **Social Networking Platforms:** The use of cross-linking network facilities such as Drop Box and E-mail services has been great use in maintenance of personal and institutional documents securities. These social devices accessible in the cloud and computing network, helps individuals and organizations to maintain subscriptions on the net for easier and secured sharing of information (Eijkman 2012).

The above counter-measures or instrument if properly installed in the Nigerian tertiary institutions will regulate abnormal behavior, promote conducive learning environment for students and staff as well as disseminate vital information on criminal related activities within the institutions and among the host community to the security agencies for possible arrest of the culprits and prosecution.

### **Statement of the problem**

The tertiary institutions were established for the purpose of developing high level manpower which will serve as the engine room for promoting economic and sustainable development of the Society. With this development, the society will be transformed and liberated from all forms of slavery and exploitations. The society can only be transformed when the tertiary institutions are conducive for teaching, research and community development without unnecessary distraction on security related challenges. Today, it seems that the tertiary institutions have been turned to hub for demonstration, riots, protests, violence, industrial action and vandalization of school properties by staff and students over non-provision of basic social amenities, poor motivation of staff, poor funding and authoritative style of leadership and corrupt practices adopted by the management of school which likely hindered effective communication and understanding. This action may negatively affect the teaching and learning process which will promote examination malpractices, stealing, and cultism, raping of female students, sexual abuse and kidnapping for ransom hence the need for study. It is therefore important to seek proactive measures that can be adopted by the educational stakeholders to maintain effective management of the institutions and minimize security related challenges

### **Aim and objectives of the study**

The aim of the study is to communicate security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. Specifically, the objectives include to;

1. Identify the sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State
2. Examine the challenges of communicating security awareness among management tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State
3. Examine strategies that can be adopted to communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. What are the sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?
2. What are the challenges of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?
3. What are the possible strategies of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study;

1. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative lecturers and Female administrative lecturers on the sources of communicating security awareness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century among the management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative lecturers and Female administrative lecturers on the challenges of communicating security awareness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century among the management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

3. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative lecturers and Female administrative lecturers on the strategies of communicating security awareness in the 21st century among the management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

## Methodology

The design used for the study was descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 370 management teams from 6 public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The management teams consisted of Vice Chancellors, Provost, Rectors, Dean of Schools or Faculties and Heads of Department from 6 public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The breakdown of this figure (370) shown that Rivers State University (RSU) has 111 management teams (Male =98 while Female = 13. Source: Matriculation brochure of 2023/2024 Academic session), University of Port Harcourt (UPH) has 100 management teams (Male=87 & Female=13. Source: convocation ceremony of 2021/2022 academic session held in 2023/2024), Ignatius University of Education (IUOE) Rivers State has 52 (Male= 38 & Female =14. Source: Convocation ceremony of 2023/2024 academic session), Federal College of Education (Technical) Omoku has 50 (Male =36 & Female=14. Source: Matriculation ceremony of 2023/2024 academic session), Ken Sarowiwa Polytechnic Bori has 29 (Male =25 & Female =4. Source: Directorate of Establishment, 2023/2024 academic session) and Captain Elechi Polytechnic Port Harcourt has 28 (Male =22 & Female= 6. Source: Directorate of Establishment, 2023/2024 academic session). Stratified Random Sampling Technique was used to select sample size of 128 management teams from 6 public tertiary institutions in Rivers State representing 36% of the total population. The process of selection begins with dividing the 6 tertiary institutions into 6 strata. In each Strata (School), ballot system was adopted to select the sample size of 21 giving the total of 128. From 128, 64 were Male administrative managers while 64 were Female administrative managers who participated in the study. A self – structured questionnaire titled “Communicating Security Awareness Among Management of Tertiary Institutions Questionnaire (CSAAMTIQ)” was used for the study. CSAAMTIQ was validated by expert in the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling specialized in measurement and evaluation. The Cronbach alpha was used to establish the reliability index of 0.80. The research questions were analyzed using tables, means and standard deviations as well as rank order. The means scores of 2.50 and above were seen as agreed while below 2.50 was seen as disagreed. Hypotheses formulated were tested using Z- test at 0.05 level of significance. The weighted means scores are as follows, Strongly Agreed (SA) =4 points, Agreed (A) = 3 points, Disagreed (D) =2 and Strongly Disagreed (SD) = 1point. That is,  $4+3+2+1 = 10/4 = 2.50$ .

## Results

**Research Question 1:** What are the sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?

**Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of respondent opinions on the sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State**

S/N	What are sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?	64 male administrative managers		64 female administrative managers		Mean set	Decision
		$\bar{x}$	Std	$\bar{x}$	Std		
1	The tertiary institution is properly fenced to regulate the activities of criminals	2.36	.78	2.04	.24	2.20	Disagreed
2	There is provision of link roads within the school premises for effective communication.	2.84	.51	3.27	.54	3.06	Agreed
3	There is proper security lighting system that is installed on the school campuses thereby exposed the staff and students to danger.	2.81	.53	2.91	.43	2.86	Agreed
4	There is provision for security van on the school campuses to regulate the movement of criminal activities especially at night.	2.81	.47	3.05	.52	2.93	Agreed
5	There is provision for duty post/house at the strategic entrance of the school campuses.	2.92	.51	3.00	.36	2.96	Agreed
6	The authoritative style of leadership adopted by the management of tertiary institutions contributes towards poor communication system between the staff and the students.	2.88	.49	3.09	.64	2.99	Agreed
7	The security personnel employed by the management of tertiary institution are grossly inadequate to regulate daily movement on	2.95	.60	3.06	.24	3.00	Agreed



	the school campuses.						
8	The educational facilities provided by management of tertiary institutions are outdated thereby hindered effective teaching - learning process.	3.00	.53	2.89	.48	2.95	Agreed
9	The funds provided by the government are not adequate enough to meet maintenance culture of academic and non -academic activities in the institution.	2.97	.62	2.79	.62	2.88	Agreed
10	There is constant complaint between the security personnel employed by the management of the institution and the host community due to poor human relationship.	3.29	.79	3.44	.50	3.37	Agreed
<b>Cluster mean and standard deviation</b>		<b>2.88</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Data on table 1 show that male and female administrative managers agreed that items with serial numbers 2 to 10 have their various mean values of 3.06, 2.86, 2.93, 2.96, 2.99, 3.00, 2.95, 2.88 and 3.37 above the criterion mean value of 2.50. Therefore, the sources of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State are provision of link roads within the school premises for effective communication. proper security lighting system that is installed on the school campuses thereby exposed the staff and students to danger, provision for security van on the school campuses to regulate the movement of criminal activities especially at night, no provision for duty post/house at the strategic entrance of the school campuses, authoritative style of leadership adopted by the management of tertiary institutions contributes towards poor communication between the staff and the students, security personnel employed by the management of tertiary institution are grossly inadequate to regulate daily movement on the school campuses, educational facilities provided by management of tertiary institutions are outdated thereby hindered effective teaching -learning process, funds provided by the government are not adequate enough to meet maintenance culture of academic and non -academic activities in the institution and constant complaint between the security personnel employed by the management of the institution and the host community due to poor human relationship.

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative managers and Female administrative managers on the sources of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

**Table 2: t-test analysis and mean ratings of male and female administrative managers on the sources of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State**

Variables	N	$\bar{X}$	Std	Df	t-cal	t-crit.	Decision
Male administrative managers	64	2.88	0.58				Ho: Accepted
Female administrative managers	64	2.95	0.46	126	0.92	1.96	

Data presented on Table 2 showed the t-test analysis and mean ratings of male and female administrative managers on the sources of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. Based on the above, the null hypothesis was accepted because the t-cal. value of 0.92 is less than the t-crit. value of 1.96. This implies that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative managers and Female administrative managers on the sources of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

**Research Question 2:** What are the challenges of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?

**Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of respondent opinions on the challenges of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State**

S/N	What are sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?	64 male administrative managers		64 female administrative managers		Mean set	Decision
		$\bar{x}$	Std	$\bar{x}$	Std		
11	The perception of political offices as the primary means of gaining access to wealth at the expense of others within the institutions.	3.08	.78	3.28	.45	3.18	Agreed
12	There is no transparency, responsibility and accountability in financial management of resources.	3.23	.61	3.44	.50	3.34	Agreed
13	There is increase in examination malpractice among students without properly regulation by the management.	3.33	.47	3.42	.49	3.38	Agreed
14	The staff and students are kidnapped for ransom on the school campuses due to insecurity challenges.	3.05	.65	3.08	.47	3.07	Agreed
15	There are armed robbery attacks among staff and students on school campuses on regular basis.	3.08	.63	3.21	.46	3.15	Agreed
16	There is sexual abuse among the students on school campuses without properly regulated attention by the school management.	2.91	.56	3.28	.45	3.09	Agreed
17	There is increase in cult related activities on school campuses.	3.05	.65	3.29	.46	3.17	Agreed
18	There are poor salaries and poor working conditions among staff which promote constant industrial action.	2.89	.67	3.44	.50	3.1	Agreed
19	There is incursion of politics into management of tertiary institutions	2.94	.53	2.50	1.07	2.72	Agreed
20	The Continuous motivation of corrupt leadership practices in management of tertiary institutions generate conflict of interests among educational stakeholders.	3.08	.48	2.79	.93	2.94	Agreed
		<b>3.06</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Data on table 3 show that male and female administrators agreed that items with serial numbers 11 to 20 have their various mean values of 3.18, 3.34, 3.38, 3.07, 3.15, 3.09, 3.17, 2.72, and 2.94 above the criterion mean value of 2.50. Therefore, the challenges of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State are the perception of political offices as the primary means of gaining access to wealth at the expense of others within the institutions, there is no transparency, responsibility and accountability in management of financial resources, there is increase in examination malpractice among students without properly regulation by the management, the staff and students are kidnapped for ransom on the school campuses due to insecurity challenges, there are armed robbery attacks among staff and students on school campuses on regular basis, there is sexual abuse among the students on school campuses without properly regulated attention by the school management, there is increase in cult related activities on school campuses, there is poor salaries and poor working conditions among staff which promote constant industrial action, there is incursion of politics into management of tertiary institutions and Continuous motivation of corrupt leadership practices.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male administrative managers and female administrative managers on the challenges of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

**Table 4: t-test analysis and mean ratings of male and female administrative managers on the challenges of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.**

Variables	N	$\bar{x}$	Std	Df	t-cal	t-crit.	Decision
Male administrative managers	64	3.06	0.60				Ho: Accepted
Female administrative managers	64	3.17	0.58	126	1.12	1.96	

Data presented on Table 4 showed the t-test analysis and mean ratings of male and female administrative managers on the challenges of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. Based on the above, the null hypothesis was accepted because the t-cal. value of 1.12 is less than the t-crit. value of 1.96. This implies that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative managers and Female administrative managers on the challenges of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

**Research Question 3:** What are the strategies of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?

**Table 5: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of respondent opinions on the strategies of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State**

S/N	What are strategies of communicating security awareness among management in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State?	64 male administrative lecturers		64 female administrative lecturers		Mean set	Decision
		$\bar{x}$	Std	$\bar{x}$	Std		
21	Provision of adequate fencing of the school premises.	3.11	.48	2.92	1.03	3.015	Agreed
22	Recruitment of competent and qualified security personnel to regulate movement on school campuses.	3.27	.51	2.72	.98	2.99	Agreed
23	Provision of training and re-training programme for security personnel to update their skills on security related matters.	3.11	.44	2.67	.79	2.89	Agreed
24	Provision of regular power supply on the school campuses to check criminal activities mostly at night.	3.13	.38	3.03	1.05	3.08	Agreed
25	Installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) gadgets at the strategic entrance of the institutions to regulate criminal activities.	3.14	.47	2.92	.95	3.03	Agreed
26	Use of information and communication technology to provide opportunities for security personnel to communicate with one another with the modern technological gadgets.	3.14	.66	2.88	.81	3.01	Agreed
27	The security personnel should be properly motivated through regular payment of salaries and allowances.	3.17	.75	2.84	1.07	3.01	Agreed
28	Installation of automated personal data-based machines to have easier access to biometrics of its student membership.	3.31	.56	2.63	1.06	2.97	Agreed
29	Government at all levels should show genuine political will by providing adequate funding for effective management of tertiary institutions.	3.09	.53	2.88	.52	2.99	Agreed
30	The management should assist the security personnel to attend seminars and conferences to update their existing knowledge on security related demand of the profession.	2.33	.54	2.83	.55	2.58	Agreed
	<b>Cluster mean and standard deviation</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Data on table 5 show that male and female administrators agreed that items with serial numbers 11 to 20 have their various mean values of 3.18, 3.34, 3.38, 3.07, 3.15, 3.09, 3.17, 2.72, and 2.94 above the criterion mean value of 2.50. Therefore, the strategies of communicating security awareness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century among the management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State are provision of adequate fencing of the school premises, recruitment of competent and qualified security personnel to regulate movement on school campuses, provision of training and re-training programme for security personnel to update their skills on security related matters, provision of regular power supply on the school campuses to check criminal activities mostly at night, Installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) gadgets at the strategic entrance of the institutions to regulate criminal activities, use of information and communication technology to provide opportunities for security personnel to communicate with one another with the modern technological gadgets, the security personnel should be properly motivated through regular payment of salaries and allowances, installation of automated personal data-based machines to have easier access to biometrics of its student membership, Government at all levels should show genuine political will by providing adequate funding for effective management of tertiary institutions and the management should assist the security personnel to attend seminars and conferences to update their existing knowledge on security related demand of the profession.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative managers and Female administrative managers on the strategies of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

**Table 6: t-test analysis and mean ratings of male and female administrative managers on the strategies of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State**

Variables	N	$\bar{x}$	Std	Df	t-cal.	t-crit.	Decision
Male administrative managers	64	3.08	0.53	2			Ho: Accepted
Female administrative managers	64	2.83	0.88	126	1.21	1.96	

Data presented on Table 6 showed the t-test analysis and mean ratings of male and female administrative managers on the strategies of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. Based on the above, the null hypothesis was accepted because the t-cal. value of 1.21 is less than the t-crit. value of 1.96. This implies that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative managers and Female administrative managers on the strategies of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

### Summary of the Findings

1. The sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State are provision of link roads within the school premises for effective communication, proper security lighting system that is installed on the school campuses thereby exposed the staff and students to danger, provision for security van on the school campuses to regulate the movement of criminal activities especially at night, provision for duty post/house at the strategic entrance of the school campuses, authoritative style of leadership adopted by the management of tertiary institutions contributes towards poor communication system between the staff and the students, security personnel employed by the management of tertiary institution are grossly inadequate to regulate daily movement on the school campuses, educational facilities provided by management of tertiary institutions are outdated thereby hindered effective teaching -learning process, funds provided by the government are not adequate enough to meet maintenance culture of academic and non -academic activities in the institution and constant complaint between the security personnel employed by the management of the institution and the host community due to poor human relationship. The hypothesis showed that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of Male administrative managers and Female administrative managers on the sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.
2. The challenges of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State are the perception of political offices as the primary means of gaining access to wealth at the expense of others within the institutions, there is no transparency, responsibility and accountability in financial management of resources, there is increase in examination malpractice among students without properly regulation by the management, the staff and students are kidnapped for ransom on the school campuses due to insecurity challenges, there are armed robbery attacks among staff and students on school campuses on regular basis, there is sexual abuse among the students on school campuses without properly regulated attention by the school management, there is increase in cult related activities on school campuses, there is poor salaries and poor working conditions among staff which promote constant industrial action, there is incursion of politics into management of tertiary institutions and Continuous motivation of corrupt leadership practices. The hypothesis showed that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of male administrative lecturers and female administrative lecturers on the challenges of communicating security awareness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century among the management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.
3. The strategies of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State are provision of adequate fencing of the school premises, recruitment of

competent and qualified security personnel to regulate movement on school campuses, provision of training and re-training programme for security personnel to update their skills on security related matters, provision of regular power supply on the school campuses to check criminal activities mostly at night, Installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) gadgets at the strategic entrance of the institutions to regulate criminal activities, use of information and communication technology to provide opportunities for security personnel to communicate with one another with the modern technological gadgets, the security personnel should be properly motivated through regular payment of salaries and allowances, installation of automated personal data-based machines to have easier access to biometrics of its student membership, Government at all levels should show genuine political will by providing adequate funding for effective management of tertiary institutions and the management should assist the security personnel to attend seminars and conferences to update their existing knowledge on security related demand of the profession. The hypothesis showed that there is a significant difference between the mean ratings of male administrative lecturers and female administrative lecturers on the strategies of communicating security awareness among the management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

### Discussion of findings

Based on the analysis of research questions and testing of hypotheses, the discussion of the findings is presented below:

The first findings of the study revealed sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. The sources of insecurity that threaten effective communication and security awareness are fragile nature of the school environment due to lack of security lights on the major streets, inadequate provision of trained security personnel and security patrol vans. This finding is in line with views of United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) (2017) upheld that due to insecure environment, 1,400 schools have been destroyed, damaged or looted primarily in North- East Nigeria and more than 600,000 children have lost access to quality education. Related studies revealed that effective communication sustained security awareness but sources of insecurity in the tertiary institutions lead to poor communication between the authorities of tertiary institutions. Other factors that contribute toward poor communication include, poor funding of tertiary institutions, insufficient and aging of basic social amenities and academic facilities, socialization influence, brain drain and poor attention to the demand of the students, ideological and political reasons ( Ojo, 1995; Olanosu, 2000; salami, 2000; Ofordile, 2001; Agbola, Olatubana & Alabi, 2000; Aderinto, 2002; Williams, Harnet & Strasser, 2003; Adisa, Okosi & Aderinto 2004; Aluede, & Adejemi, 2009; Nwankpa, 2015). The hypothesis confirmed that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male administrative managers and female administrative managers on the sources of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

The second findings of the study revealed the challenges of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. This challenge implies that there is no transparency, responsibility and accountability in financial management of resources towards meeting the basic demands of staff and students. This finding is in line with the related studied which revealed that the challenges of tertiary institutions is corruption and corruption can be demonstrated through lack of accountability, transparency and responsibility in financial management of resources which created conflict of interests among educational stakeholders. Alimi & Isiramen in Adagbabine & Ugo (2018: 43) define corruption as “Impairment of virtues, moral, principles and pervasion or change from general rules to selfish benefits”. Nnorom, Esenwagu & Nwankwo (2020) supported the above assertion and revealed that poor funding and constant delay in payment of salaries, wage awards and promotion arrears of staff are attributed to corruption which provided a fertile ground for protests, demonstrations and insecurity within the Nigerian tertiary institutions. The hypothesis upheld that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female administrative lecturers on the challenges of communicating security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State.

Thirdly, the findings of the study identified strategies that can be adopted to communicate security awareness among management of tertiary institutions in 21<sup>st</sup> century in Rivers State. This finding is in line with Sadiq (2012) which revealed the possible strategies that can be adopted by the management to reduced security challenges to the barest minimum. Such strategies include, provision of adequate fencing of the school premises, recruitment of competent and professional security personnel with provision of modern communication gadgets, training and retraining programmes for security personnel, provision of regular power supply and effective



Information communication system. Auyo, Idris, & Ibrahim (2020) accepted the above assertion and confirmed that the goals of educational system of any Nation are to produce professional manpower adequately prepared to enhance productivity in 21<sup>st</sup> century and Information Communication technology (ICT) is the powerful instrument that can be used to achieved such goals through Proper Security Management System (PSMS) to reduced threats and abnormal behaviors in tertiary institutions. Similarly, Eijkman (2012) added that the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Nigerian tertiary institutions will assist in revealing threats and abnormal behavior in the society by conveying images, videos and others chosen databases for reporting any abnormal skeptical wrong doing for possible arrest and prosecution of offenders. The hypothesis revealed that there is no significant difference between mean ratings of male and female administrative lecturers on the possible strategies of communicating security awareness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century among the management of tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that poor communication system between the school management, staff and students are attributed to continuous motivation of corrupt and authoritative style of leadership. It was further revealed that inadequate provision of funds, poor working conditions and constant delayed in payment of salaries as well as inadequate provision of basic educational facilities provide constant demonstrations, protests and insecurity on the school campuses. Worst still, when government provides merger resources, most Vice Chancellors, Provosts and Rectors of Nigerian tertiary institutions demonstrate lack of transparency, responsibility and accountability in the financial management of resources towards the provision of basic educational facilities to meet the demands of staff and students.

## Recommendations

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

1. The school management should employ professional and experienced security personnel with provision of modern communication gadgets to adequately regulate security and welfare of both staff and students.
2. The appointment of Vice Chancellors, Provosts and Rectors of Nigerian tertiary institutions should be transparent in the selection process and based on merit to reduce conflict of interests among educational stakeholders.
3. Government at all levels should show genuine political will in provision of adequate funding towards effective and efficient management of Nigerian tertiary institutions.

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