IMPACT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL ON CRIME PREVENTION IN POLYTECHNIC CAMPUSES IN NIGERIA: KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC ILORIN EXPERIENCE

AMIN AMIN, PhD
amin.amin@kwarastatepolytechnic.edu.ng
https://orcid.org/0009-0002-3974-1458

BABAITA TUNDE ABDULKAREEM
tababaita23@gmail.com

ABDULKADIR KOLAWOLE AJADI
ajadiousabdulquadry@gmail.com
[1,2&3]*Department of Public Administration, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, Nigeria*
Corresponding email: aminaminolohunoyin@gmail.com

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Keywords

Campus, Crime Prevention, Patrol, Polytechnic, Security Personnel

Abstract

Research Problem:
Despite the efforts by management of Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin to strengthen gate control systems and expand the security workforce, the institution still grapples with issues such as theft in student hostels and cult-related intimidation.
Methods/Theory:
The study was guided by Hirschi's (1969) Social Control Theory. The study employed content analysis. The population for this study was 17,115 while was 391 derived by Taro Yamane (1967) formula to determine sample size. Out of the 391 copies of questionnaire administered, 349 were retrieved and analyzed using SPSS version 25.
Results:
Findings indicated that security officers play a vital role in deterring and detecting criminal activities through regular patrols, surveillance, and visible presence. Respondents acknowledged the officers' efficiency in managing entry points, responding swiftly to incidents, and fostering cooperation with external agencies. Furthermore, security education programs were found to enhance awareness and community participation in safety initiatives.
Conclusion:
The study demonstrated that security officers are a vital component of crime prevention and safety management at Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. The majority of students and staff expressed strong confidence in the officers' ability to deter, detect, and respond to crime. Regular patrols, effective access control, and prompt emergency response were identified as key operational strengths contributing to a sense of safety and trust across the campus.
Key Contribution to Knowledge:
The study investigated the impact of security personnel on crime prevention and safety management at Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. It

examined the roles of security personnel in crime prevention within polytechnic campuses as well as the effectiveness of security personnel in curbing crime and maintaining safety in Kwara State Polytechnic.

Recommendation:

The study recommended that trained, visible, and well-equipped security personnel significantly improve campus safety and create a conducive learning environment. It recommends that the Polytechnic Management and Security Unit, in collaboration with the Nigerian Police Force, should intensify patrols, install more CCTV systems, enhance inter-agency collaboration, and organize regular capacity-building programs for security personnel to strengthen campus crime prevention and safety management.

1. Introduction

Campus security is a global concern in higher education institutions, as the safety of students, staff, and property is essential for academic achievement and institutional stability. Global universities and colleges encounter several security risks, including theft, vandalism, assault, cybercrime, and, in severe instances, terrorism (Anderson & Taylor, 2021). Developed countries have significantly invested in integrated security systems, professional training for campus law enforcement, and community policing tactics to reduce these threats. Security officers in these locations have a varied job that includes surveillance, emergency response, criminal prevention, and promoting a culture of safety. Research indicates that an effectively coordinated security network diminishes criminal activities and enhances students' sense of belonging and trust in the institution (Jones, 2020).

The security of educational institutions in Africa is a significant concern due to socio-economic instability, political upheaval, and inadequate investment in campus safety equipment. Numerous universities and polytechnics grapple with challenges like cultism, sexual harassment, armed robbery, and violent protests (Mafukidze & Ntuli, 2019). The African Union's Agenda 2063 identifies peace and security as essential facilitators of sustainable education (African Union, 2020). Nevertheless, numerous institutions continue to function with antiquated security measures, insufficient manpower, and inadequate technology. Studies indicate that African higher education institutions that allocate resources to train security personnel in contemporary crime prevention methods, including intelligence-led policing and conflict mediation, see markedly reduced crime rates (Okeke, 2021; Thaba-Nkadimene & Mampa, 2022).

In West Africa, polytechnics and universities encounter distinct security challenges influenced by swift urbanisation, youth unemployment, and permeable campus perimeters. Countries such as Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria have encountered campus unrest, thievery, and violence associated with cults (Mensah, 2018). West African nations have endeavoured to mitigate these issues by establishing institutional security units that work in close cooperation with national police agencies (Agyeman, 2020). Nonetheless, the difficulty endures because to little finance, poor training, and the intricacies of student politics. Research in Nigeria indicates that insufficient budget, absence of monitoring apparatus, and poor collaboration between campus and external security entities exacerbate ongoing insecurity in higher education institutions (Adebayo & Ojo, 2019; Adeyemi, 2020; Amin & Ajadi, 2025). The dependence on inadequately trained guards with restricted power diminishes the efficacy of crime prevention initiatives, leading to

demands for the professionalisation of campus security services (Osei & Boateng, 2023).

In Nigeria, insecurity at higher institutions has persistently been a significant issue, exacerbated by cultism, kidnapping, theft, examination malpractice, and violent protests (Adebayo, 2019). Security personnel on Nigerian universities are tasked with protecting lives and property, enforcing institutional regulations, and preserving public order. Nonetheless, they frequently encounter limitations including insufficient compensation, outdated equipment, and inadequate personnel (Oladipo & Omotayo, 2022). The Federal Government and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) have advocated for the use of proactive security measures, such as CCTV surveillance, access control, and ongoing staff training (NBTE, 2021). Notwithstanding these initiatives, numerous polytechnics continue to encounter security breaches, highlighting the necessity for empirical evaluations of the roles and efficacy of security personnel (Onifade, 2020). This study will investigate the influence of security staff on crime prevention at Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin, Nigeria.

2. Statement of the Problem

Numerous Nigerian polytechnics continue to depend on underfunded security units marked by insufficient personnel, outdated surveillance equipment, and inadequate professional training (Oladipo & Omotayo, 2022). This circumstance has led to an increase in incidents of theft, cultism, vandalism, and assaults on tertiary campuses, fostering an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. Despite the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE, 2021) issuing policy guidelines that advocate for polytechnics to undertake proactive measures, including the installation of surveillance cameras, the recruitment of qualified security personnel, and the promotion of collaboration with law enforcement agencies, the implementation is inconsistent among institutions. Notwithstanding the management's apparent initiatives at Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin to enhance gate control mechanisms and augment the security personnel, the institution continues to contend with challenges including theft in student accommodations, vandalism of lecture halls, cult-related harassment, and sluggish emergency response (Yusuf & Abdulkareem, 2023). Furthermore, persistent incidents of burglary in staff quarters indicate insufficient night patrols, inadequate information collection, and low logistical resources (Adeyemi, 2019). Numerous researchers, including Adepoju & Adejumo (2020), Yusuf & Abdulkareem (2023), and Amin & Abdulkadir (2025), have examined security and crime; however, none have addressed the influence of security personnel on crime prevention within the polytechnic campuses of Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, Nigeria. This study aims to address the existing gap.

3. Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are to:

i. examine the roles of security personnel in crime prevention within polytechnic campuses in Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin, Nigeria.

ii. assess the effectiveness of security personnel in curbing crime and maintaining safety in Kwara State Polytechnic.

4. Research questions

i. What roles do security personnel play in crime prevention within polytechnic campuses, specifically in Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, Nigeria?

ii. How effective are security personnel in curbing crime and maintaining safety in Kwara State Polytechnic?

5. Conceptual Clarifications

5.1. Security Personnel/Officers

Security officers are trained individuals tasked with safeguarding lives, property, and infrastructure inside a designated jurisdiction or institution. Adebayo and Ojo (2019) assert that security personnel in educational institutions are essential for maintaining safety and order by overseeing access points, discouraging prospective offenders, and promptly addressing security violations. Okafor (2021) asserts that their presence not only deters crime but also cultivates a safe learning environment, which is vital for academic production. Security personnel may be directly hired by the university or contracted from private security companies, with both arrangements intended to protect students, staff, and facilities (Eze, 2020). Effective campus security relies on the training of officers, their professional demeanour, and the accessibility of contemporary security equipment to augment their operations. Onifade (2020) asserts that security officers constitute the primary defence in protecting public and private areas with responsibilities including surveillance, entry control, routine patrols, crowd management, and emergency response. Within the educational framework, especially on polytechnic campuses, security officials are essential for upholding discipline, overseeing student conduct, and addressing situations that may disturb academic and social stability (Eze & Okonkwo, 2019).

5.2. Crime Prevention

Crime prevention encompasses tactics, measures, and interventions designed to diminish the incidence of criminal acts and improve public safety (Ekpenyong & Adebayo, 2021). Ekpenyong and Okeke (2020) define crime prevention as the anticipation, recognition, and assessment of criminal risk, succeeded by the implementation of suitable measures to eliminate or mitigate it. Siegel (2019) perceives crime prevention as the methodical implementation of policies and procedures that target the social, environmental, and situational determinants of criminal behaviour. Ekblom (2011) defines crime prevention as a planned and persistent collection of actions meant to minimise the chances for crime and enhance the perceived dangers for criminals. Sherman, Farrington, Welsh, and MacKenzie (2019) characterise crime prevention as an evidence-based strategy that integrates environmental design, community policing, and social interventions to deter criminal behaviour. Adepoju and Adejumo (2020) contend that crime prevention involves the collaborative efforts of security personnel, administrators, and students to establish a secure educational environment through monitoring, access control, and awareness initiatives.

6. Empirical Review

Daniel (2011) analysed the efficacy of policing techniques in Nigeria. The research utilised a qualitative approach and employed systems theory. The results indicated that, despite the implementation of contemporary and community policing initiatives, the Nigerian police force predominantly operates in a reactive and confrontational manner rather than proactively tackling criminal activity. The study revealed that the Nigerian state has inadequately invested in capacity building and contemporary police tactics, hence exacerbating the ineffectiveness of crime prevention. The report advised Nigeria to implement a type of genuine federalism in its policing framework, akin to the American model, which grants local and state-level

forces increased autonomy to tackle their distinct security issues.

Doyle, Frogner, Andershed, and Andershed (2015) investigated perceptions of safety in the presence of police officers, security personnel, and police volunteers. The research employed a quantitative design. The results indicated that a uniformed presence did not substantially improve feelings of safety in situations already seen as secure, suggesting that the deployment of patrols in these contexts may be superfluous. In perceived hazardous situations, all forms of uniformed presence enhanced the respondents' sense of security. The research advised the systematic deployment of uniformed patrols, concentrating mainly on regions deemed hazardous. Furthermore, it proposed the incorporation of trained police volunteers or security staff in non-essential regions to enhance resource efficiency while preserving public trust.

Tabiu (2017) performed an empirical investigation to assess the effects of human resource management (HRM) techniques. The research employed a cross-sectional survey. The findings indicated that HRM methods affect several performance factors in unique manners. employment rotation, training and development, compensation, employment autonomy, and career planning significantly enhanced task performance. Conversely, job rotation, job autonomy, communication, and career planning markedly impacted both contextual and adaptive performance. The report advised public sector managers to use and reinforce HRM strategies to improve employee performance. Moreover, organisations must to cultivate self-efficacy, public service motivation, and offer transparent career options, as these elements significantly mediate the effectiveness of HRM initiatives.

Ushe (2019) investigated the escalating problem of cultism and violence in Nigerian colleges, assessing its considerable effect on student safety and academic achievement. The research utilised a survey methodology. Research indicates that cultism and violence have become increasingly pervasive at Nigerian institutions, with occurrences occurring nearly every day. The extreme activism of students, the inability of university and state authorities to uphold appropriate behavioural standards, and the conflicts among cult groups were recognised as key causes contributing to the pervasive violence. The report advocated for the reformation of university policies and curricula to emphasise ethical and moral education.

Fisher, Gardella, and Tanner-Smith (2019) examined the correlation between school security measures and students' perceptions of informal social control mechanisms. The study employed structural equation modelling (SEM). The results indicated that the presence of security officers correlated with diminished interactions between students and professors. The study revealed that the impact of alternative security measures, such metal detectors and surveillance cameras, was either negligible or inconsistent between models, suggesting that their presence did not uniformly affect students' perceptions of social control. The report advised that schools judiciously integrate official security measures with approaches that promote constructive teacher-student connections and uphold the equity and uniformity of school regulations.

Arruzza and Chau (2021) performed a scoping review to assess the efficacy of classroom-based cultural competence instruction for undergraduate health science students. The research utilised thematic analysis. The results indicated that although cultural competency education enhanced students' cultural understanding after the intervention, the differences were not consistently statistically significant when compared to control groups. Significant favourable effects were noted in skill

enhancement and attitudes towards cultural competency. The study advocated for the systematic integration of cultural competence training within health science curriculum. Alexander (2024) examined physical security protocols within organisational contexts, specifically addressing inadequate storage techniques for critical information. The study utilised a qualitative methodology. The findings indicated that informal storage practices, such as storing sensitive documents in desk drawers, do not satisfy the stringent criteria required of security custodians. The report advised organisations to implement internationally acknowledged physical security standards, educate appointed custodians on secure data management, and perform regular audits to verify adherence to established security protocols.

7. Theoretical Framework

This research employs Social Control Theory was proposed by Hirschi in 1969. The idea aims to elucidate the reasons individuals adhere to societal norms rather than the motivations behind criminal behaviour. Hirschi posits that criminal behaviour emerges when an individual's connection to society is tenuous or fractured. Social Control Theory posits that individuals possess an inherent propensity for deviance, although socialisation and societal relationships inhibit them from engaging in misconduct. It posits that conformity is sustained by social integration and the apprehension of losing esteemed relationships or chances. Moreover, the theory underscores the significance of social institutions, including schools, families, and workplaces, in shaping behaviour through oversight, ethical education, and rule enforcement. These assumptions indicate that crime prevention relies not solely on formal enforcement but also on the efficacy of informal social controls inherent in interpersonal interactions and institutional frameworks.

The theory is pertinent to the study as it elucidates the role of security personnel in fostering and maintaining social relationships that inhibit deviant behaviour. By fostering attachment, security personnel cultivate mutual trust and respect among students and staff, thereby promoting cooperation and adherence to institutional regulations. Their enforcement of punishment and support for academic objectives enhance dedication, as individuals become increasingly reluctant to compromise their education or reputation through wrongdoing. Security officers promote engagement by maintaining a safe campus environment that supports academic and extracurricular activities, hence reducing idle time that could result in deviant behaviour. Their involvement in implementing institutional norms bolsters the trust in the legitimacy of rules and authority, cultivating a culture of discipline and moral responsibility throughout the campus community.

Social Control Theory has faced significant criticism from academics. Numerous critics contend that the theory overlooks the fundamental incentives driving criminal behaviour, concentrating predominantly on the reasons for conformity rather than the causes of offending (Lilly, Cullen, & Ball, 2019). Akers and Sellers (2021) assert that Hirschi's concept posits that the lack of robust social relationships inherently results in deviance; nevertheless, it neglects to include internal motivations, socio-economic deprivation, or psychological influences that may promote criminal behaviour. The idea has been criticism for placing excessive emphasis on traditional social connections, including family, education, and employment (Ibrahim, 2018; Ugwuoke, 2020). Poverty, unemployment, corruption, and fragile institutional frameworks significantly impact deviant behaviour, a factor inadequately addressed by the theory (Otu, 2017; Osalor & Nnam, 2022). Onifade (2021) elucidates that

deficient institutional legitimacy in African nations frequently erodes individuals' adherence to and faith in social norms, hence challenging the theory's presumption of universal compliance. The idea minimises the impact of peer groups and subcultures, which can significantly affect youth behaviour, especially in higher education settings where peer validation frequently contends with institutional authority (Bamisaye & Ajayi, 2019; Nwosu, 2023).

Nonetheless, the theory is particularly relevant to this study as it emphasises the function of security personnel as pivotal agents of social control who enforce discipline, promote lawful conduct, and uphold institutional order. Through constructive engagement with students and staff, security officers enhance the institution's social cohesion and diminish the probability of deviant behaviour. Their presence and aggressive initiatives cultivate a sense of safety, trust, and shared responsibility for campus security. Consequently, Social Control Theory offers a robust theoretical framework for comprehending the correlation between the actions of security agents and crime prevention on polytechnic campuses in Nigeria.

8. Methodology

The paper utilised both primary and secondary data. The principal data comprise a questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed to the security professionals, including both junior and senior ranks as well as the management team of Kwara State Polytechnic, Nigeria, to gather information regarding the strengths of the campus security personnel. The transcribed qualitative primary data and qualitative secondary data obtained from pertinent scholarly sources were analysed by thematic analysis. The population size is 17,115, and the sample size is 391, calculated using the Taro Yamane (1967) formula. A total of 349 questionnaires were collected and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 for streamlined analysis.

The formulae for determining the sample size is given by:

$$n = \frac{N}{K + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n = Sample size
N = Total population of
k = 1
e = 0.05%
n = (17115)

$$n = \frac{17115}{1 + 17115\ (0.05)2}$$

$$n = \frac{17115}{1+ 17115 \times 0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{17115}{1+ 42.7875}$$

$$n = \frac{17115}{43.7875}$$

n= 390.864
Therefore, n = 391.864

9. Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 9.1: The roles of security personnel in crime prevention within polytechnic campuses in Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin, Nigeria

S/N	Items	SD	D	U	A	SA	Total	Remark
1	Security personnel regularly patrol the campus to deter and detect criminal activities.	29 (8.3%)	10 (2.9%)	1 (.3)	168 (48.1)	141 (40.4)	349 (100)	Agree
2	Security personnel are actively involved in monitoring entry and exit points to control	16 (4.6)	22 (6.3)	1 (.3)	143 (41)	167 (47.9)	349 (100)	Strong agree

	unauthorized access.							
3	Security officers provide rapid response during emergencies and incidents of crime.	12 (3.4)	25 (7.2)	8 (2.3)	167 (47.9)	137 (39.3)	349 (100)	Agree
4	Security personnel educate students and staff on safety rules and crime prevention measures.	28 (8)	63 (18.1)	14 (4)	143 (41)	101 (28.9)	349 (100)	Agree
5	The presence of security officers on campus contributes significantly to a safer learning environment.	27 (7.7)	13 (3.7)	4 (1.1)	131 (37.5)	174 (49.9)	349 (100)	Strong agree
6	Security officers collaborate with local law enforcement agencies when addressing serious security threats.	38 (10.9)	14 (4)	3 (.9)	170 (48.9)	124 (35.5)	349 (100)	Agree

Source: Researchers field survey, 2025

The chart indicates that security officers fulfil a crucial and acknowledged function in crime prevention at Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. A significant proportion of respondents (48.1% agree and 40.4% strongly agree) affirmed that officers consistently patrol the campus to prevent and identify criminal conduct, indicating robust confidence in regular monitoring. A significant portion of the respondents (48.1% agree and 40.4% strongly agree) affirmed that cops consistently patrol the campus to prevent and identify criminal conduct, indicating robust confidence in regular monitoring. This data corroborates Clarke's (2017) assertion that visible and consistent patrols dissuade potential perpetrators and reassure the community regarding their safety. Bayley (2020) observed that proactive security measures, including regular patrols, are essential for maintaining order and deterring crime in institutional settings.

Effective access control is a crucial role, with 41% of respondents agreeing and 47.9% strongly agreeing that security professionals regularly oversee entry and exit points to deter unauthorised access, marking the highest recorded strongly agree rating. This result corroborates Newman's (2020) assertion that regulating access points is essential for crime prevention via environmental design, as it diminishes options for incursion. Similarly, Fisher and Nasar (2021) emphasised that efficient access control systems promote a sense of security and responsibility inside institutional settings. Swift emergency response is highly regarded, with 47.9% of respondents agreeing and 39.3% strongly agreeing that officers react promptly during criminal occurrences or other emergencies. This data corroborates Reaves' (2015) assertion that prompt action by security personnel is among the most efficacious measures for risk mitigation and crime impact reduction. Likewise, Lum et al. (2020) underscored that prompt response not only averts escalation but also enhances public trust and confidence in security systems.

Furthermore, 41% concurred and 28.9% strongly concurred that officers instruct students and staff about safety regulations and crime-prevention strategies; however, approximately 26% expressed disagreement or strong disagreement, indicating a potential need for enhanced outreach and education. This research corroborates Poyner's (2019) assertion that crime-prevention education is essential for community security, as knowledgeable persons are less susceptible to victimisation. Similarly, McIlwain (2021)

underscored that educational initiatives promote collaboration between security personnel and campus communities, thereby improving preventive measures and mitigating security risks.

The presence of security officers is perceived as enhancing the safety of the learning environment, with 37.5% in agreement and 49.9% in strong agreement, highlighting their significance to overall campus safety. This conclusion corroborates the assertion of Bromley and Reaves (2017), who contended that the observable presence of security personnel exerts a deterrent influence on prospective offenders while simultaneously providing reassurance to students and staff. Jennings et al. (2021) observed that the perceived presence of campus security augments emotions of safety and fosters a more favourable learning environment. Collaboration with local law enforcement agencies garnered significant acceptance, with 48.9% in agreement and 35.5% in strong agreement, signifying good external collaborations. This outcome aligns with the assertion of Peak et al. (2018), who highlighted that collaborations between campus security and local law enforcement improve information exchange, resource allocation, and coordinated responses to threats. Bromley (2020) emphasised that collaborative arrangements between institutional security and law enforcement organisations enhance community safety and increase crime prevention outcomes.

Table 9.2: The effectiveness of security personnel in curbing crime and maintaining safety in Kwara State Polytechnic

S/N	Items	SD	D	U	A	SA	Total	Remark
1	Security officers respond promptly to reports of criminal or suspicious activities on campus.	16 (4.6)	8 (2.3)	5 (1.4)	208 (59.9)	112 (29.2)	349 (100)	Agree
2	The presence of security officers has led to a noticeable reduction in crime within the campus.	13 (3.7)	25 (7.2)	3 (.9)	206 (59)	102 (32.1)	349 (100)	Agree
3	Security officers successfully prevent unauthorized individuals from accessing restricted areas of the polytechnic.	16 (4.6)	14 (4)	6 (1.7)	231 (66.2)	81 (23.2)	349 (100)	Agree
4	Security officers are well-equipped and trained to handle safety threats effectively.	31 (8.9)	45 (12.9)	8 (2.3)	215 (61.6)	50 (14.3)	349 (100)	Agree
5	Students and staff feel safe moving around the campus because of the security personnel's presence.	40 (11.5)	15 (4.3)		213 (61)	81(23.2)	349 (100)	Agree

Source: Researchers Field Survey, 2025

The chart indicates that security officers at Kwara State Polytechnic are generally perceived as proficient in preventing crime and ensuring campus safety. A significant majority of respondents (59.9% agree and 29.2% strongly agree) confirmed that officers

rapidly respond to allegations of criminal or suspicious actions, indicating a high level of confidence in their responsiveness. This discovery corresponds with Cordner's (2019) assertion that responsiveness is a core concept of effective policing, as prompt reactions to reported occurrences avert escalation and foster public trust. Paoline and Gau (2020) observed that prompt reactions not only bolster the reputation of security agencies but also cultivate a collaborative relationship between police and the community. Likewise, 59% concurred and 32.1% strongly concurred that the presence of security staff has resulted in a significant decrease in campus crime, highlighting their preventive efficacy. This data corroborates Tilley's (2019) assertion that visible security patrols and planned officer deployment substantially reduce crime in public areas. Similarly, Fisher and Sloan (2020) highlighted that the preventive impact of campus security is most pronounced when officers ensure regular visibility and interact directly with students and staff.

Furthermore, access control to restricted areas is a notable strength, with 66.2% of respondents agreeing and 23.2% strongly agreeing that security officers effectively prevent unauthorised individuals from accessing sensitive sites. This discovery aligns with the assertion of Felson and Eckert (2019), who emphasised that efficient access control is fundamental to situational crime prevention, diminishing possibilities for prospective offenders. Atlas (2021) asserted that using qualified individuals to secure restricted locations substantially enhances institutional safety by safeguarding important assets and reducing susceptibility to criminal activity.

Regarding preparation, 61.6% concurred and 14.3% strongly concurred that officers are adequately equipped and trained to address safety risks; however, around 21.8% disagreed, indicating that some respondents perceive a need for enhanced equipment or training. This conclusion corroborates the assertion of Peak et al. (2019), who highlighted that appropriate training and sufficient resources are essential for efficient security operations, especially in dynamic settings like campuses. Haberfeld and Cerrah (2020) noted that investment in ongoing training and advanced equipment improves the capability of security personnel to address threats and cultivates increased public trust in their competencies.

A majority of respondents (61% agreed and 23.2% strongly agreed) claimed that students and staff perceive a sense of safety when navigating the campus due to the presence of security personnel. This finding aligns with the assertion of Fisher and Sloan (2020), who highlighted that visible security patrols enhance the perception of safety and reassurance in academic settings. Jennings et al. (2021) emphasised that the feeling of safety is as vital as real crime reduction, as it cultivates confidence among campus users and improves the entire educational environment.

10. Discussion of Findings

The results from objective one indicate that regular patrols by security personnel are among the most effective and acknowledged strategies for crime prevention, with 88.5% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that officers consistently patrol the campus to deter and identify criminal activity. This discovery corresponds with Clarke (2017), who highlighted that visible patrols serve as a psychological disincentive to criminals while providing reassurance to law-abiding citizens. Bayley (2020) contended that proactive patrols foster trust and diminish crime by early discovery and intervention. Ajayi (2018) emphasised that regular patrols in Nigerian tertiary institutions deter anti-social behaviours, including cultism, stealing, and harassment. Nwosu (2020) observed that

prominent campus surveillance cultivates an atmosphere of vigilance and accountability, ultimately improving institutional safety.

Furthermore, the findings pertain to access control systems, with 88.9% of respondents affirming that security personnel actively oversee entry and exit points to deter unauthorised access. This result corroborates Newman's (2020) assertion that access control is a basic tenet of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which mitigates criminal chances by regulating movement inside a space. Fisher and Nasar (2021) contended that organised access and departure protocols foster a sense of order and accountability, hence discouraging invaders. Eze & Okechukwu (2019) highlighted that inadequate gate management and insufficient access control frequently exacerbate insecurity in tertiary institutions, while robust control measures markedly diminish the chances of external assaults and theft. Adebisi (2021) contended that technology-driven access systems, including CCTV-monitored gates and electronic IDs, augment real-time surveillance and increase institutional responses to emergent threats.

The study indicates that swift reaction to emergencies is a critical aspect of security operations, with 87.2% of participants affirming that officers react rapidly to occurrences. This corroborates Reaves (2015), who asserted that prompt action mitigates criminal impact and averts escalation. Likewise, Lum et al. (2020) noted that prompt responses enhance public trust and the perceived legitimacy of security organisations. Ogunleye and Akinola (2022) observed that the efficacy of campus security units is mostly contingent upon their capacity to respond promptly to emergencies, like cult confrontations, fire incidents, or thefts. Adeniran (2019) underscored that a delayed reaction frequently exacerbates insecurity in polytechnics and universities, resulting in property damage and a decline in community trust.

The findings reveal that security education and awareness initiatives are acknowledged yet underemphasised, as 69.9% of respondents concurred or strongly concurred that security personnel instruct students and staff on safety protocols and crime prevention strategies, while 26% expressed disagreement or strong disagreement. This indicates potential for enhancement. Poyner (2019) contended that safety education promotes self-defence and improves communal collaboration in crime deterrence. McIlwain (2021) observed that awareness programs foster collective accountability for safety. Olalekan and Adeyemi (2020) discovered that regular implementation of sensitisation programs markedly diminishes occurrences of theft and violence in tertiary institutions. Okafor (2021) highlighted that crime-prevention education equips students and staff to identify and promptly report suspicious behaviour, rendering it a cost-effective approach in institutional security management.

The survey also determined that the observable presence of security officers substantially enhances a safer learning environment, with 87.4% of respondents concurring or strongly concurring. This corroborates the findings of Bromley and Reaves (2017), who noted that the physical presence of cops discourages wrongdoing while providing reassurance to genuine users over their safety. Jennings et al. (2021) also asserted that perceived security visibility diminishes fear of crime and improves academic concentration. Adebayo and Yusuf (2022) indicated that visible patrols and stationed guards in Nigerian polytechnics dissuade offenders and foster discipline among students. Nnamdi (2019) similarly emphasised that a visible security presence alleviates the psychological stress linked to insecurity, hence promoting an environment favourable to

teaching and learning. The discovery that engagement with local law enforcement agencies is robust (84.4% agreement) highlights the significance of external alliances. This aligns with the findings of Peak et al. (2018), who claimed that collaboration between campus security and municipal police improves intelligence sharing and operational assistance. Bromley (2020) asserted that this collaboration results in enhanced resource allocation and crisis management.

Ogunbiyi and Falola (2021) discovered that collaboration between university security units and state police commands in Nigeria enhances prompt involvement during emergencies. Ezeoha (2018) underscored that collaborative patrols and the exchange of intelligence across institutions and law enforcement are crucial in dismantling external criminal networks that jeopardise campus safety. Results from objective two indicate that security agents rapidly respond to allegations of criminal or suspicious actions, with 59.9% of respondents in agreement and 29.2% in strong agreement. This elevated confidence indicates that the Polytechnic's security team prioritises prompt intervention in managing problems. This study aligns with Cordner's (2019) assertion that responsiveness is a core element of effective police, since it mitigates escalation and bolsters public trust. Paoline and Gau (2020) asserted that prompt reactions bolster the legitimacy of security agencies and promote collaboration between police and community members. Ajayi (2018) contended that prompt responses to security risks in Nigerian tertiary institutions reduce losses and enhance confidence among students and staff. Adebayo and Yusuf (2022) similarly discovered that response time is essential in assessing the perceived efficacy of campus security, as delayed actions frequently undermine trust and embolden perpetrators.

The research indicated that the observable presence of security staff has led to a decrease in campus crime, with 59% of participants in agreement and 32.1% in strong agreement. This highlights the preventive and deterrent impact of regular patrol and surveillance. This conclusion corroborates Tilley (2019), who noted that the strategic placement of visible patrols deters offenders and improves safety in public areas. Fisher and Sloan (2020) similarly asserted that campus security attains optimal preventive efficacy when personnel ensure visibility and foster positive interactions with the community. Nwosu (2020) and Eze and Okechukwu (2019) shown that ongoing surveillance and the presence of uniformed people deter cultism, theft, and damage in tertiary campuses. Adebisi (2021) observed that integrating visibility with surveillance technologies like CCTV amplifies deterrence and promotes real-time crime prevention efficacy.

The study indicates that access control to restricted locations is a fundamental component of security management, with 66.2% in agreement and 23.2% in strong agreement about the successful prevention of unauthorised access. This discovery corroborates the perspective of Felson and Eckert (2019), who underscored that efficient access control is fundamental to situational crime prevention, as it reduces opportunities for intrusion. Atlas (2021) noted that safeguarding sensitive places with qualified workers enhances the protection of institutional assets and diminishes susceptibility. In Nigeria, Ezeoha (2018) and Olalekan and Adeyemi (2020) identified that inadequate access control frequently leads to security violations on campuses, whereas effective gate management markedly improves safety. Adebisi (2021) emphasised that contemporary access control systems, particularly those enhanced by electronic verification and surveillance, assist institutions in mitigating both internal and external risks.

Regarding security preparation, 61.6% of respondents concurred and 14.3% strongly concurred that officers are adequately equipped and trained to address threats, while 21.8% expressed dissent. This corresponds with the findings of Peak et al. (2019), who contended that training and resources are essential for efficient security operations in dynamic environments like educational institutions. Haberfeld and Cerrah (2020) observed that ongoing professional development and investment in contemporary technology enhance the operational capabilities of security personnel. Ogunleye and Akinola (2022) discovered that numerous Nigerian tertiary institutions experience deficiencies in equipment and training, which impede effective security responses. Adeniran (2019) underscored that inadequate training and resources may hinder security officers' ability to manage intricate crises, hence accentuating the necessity for institutional investment in personnel development. The study indicated that a substantial majority (61% agree and 23.2% strongly agree) felt that students and staff feel secure navigating the campus owing to the presence of security personnel. This conclusion aligns with Fisher and Sloan (2020), who claimed that visible patrols and accessible officers enhance felt safety and reassurance in academic settings. Jennings et al. (2021) contended that the sense of safety is as crucial as the actual decrease in crime, as it fosters peace of mind and improves learning efficacy. Nnamdi (2019) and Adebayo and Yusuf (2022) established that the presence of professional and approachable security personnel enhances the psychological well-being of campus users and fosters a conducive educational environment. Bromley and Reaves (2017) discovered that perceptions of security presence foster a sense of order, hence enhancing institutional repute and stability.

11. Conclusion

The research investigated the influence of security personnel on crime deterrence within the polytechnic campuses of Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin. The research indicated that security personnel are an essential element of crime deterrence and safety administration at Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin. The majority of students and staff conveyed substantial confidence in the officers' capacity to deter, detect, and respond to criminal activity. Consistent patrols, efficient access control, and swift emergency response were recognised as essential operational characteristics fostering a sense of safety and trust throughout the campus. The research indicates that cooperation with local law enforcement and internal stakeholders enhances intelligence sharing and resource allocation.

12. Recommendations

The Polytechnic Management should enhance the frequency and scope of campus patrols by security personnel to ensure a prominent presence across the institution. Management must ensure that surveillance equipment, including CCTV cameras, are properly installed and maintained to enhance human patrols. The Security Unit of Kwara State Polytechnic, in conjunction with the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and other external security organisations, ought to enhance coordination and intelligence sharing. This collaboration will expedite responses to criminal situations, augment investigations, and streamline resource mobilisation during emergencies. Consistent collaborative security meetings and simulation exercises involving campus security and law enforcement organisations will enhance efficiency and readiness. The Polytechnic's Directorate of Security Services ought to implement regular training and capacity-building initiatives for security personnel to enhance their professional proficiency, communication

talents, and crisis management capabilities. This training should encompass contemporary crime-prevention methodologies, surveillance technologies, and conflict resolution tactics.

The Polytechnic Administration ought to institute more efficient entry control mechanisms, including electronic gate passes, biometric identification, and enhancements to perimeter fencing. This will facilitate the regulation of ingress and egress from the institution and diminish opportunities for unauthorised entrance. The Student Affairs Division, in conjunction with the Security Unit, should enhance awareness campaigns and educational initiatives about personal safety, reporting protocols, and crime prevention strategies. Equipping students and staff with knowledge cultivates a collective accountability for campus safety and enhances community policing. The Kwara State Ministry of Tertiary Education, in coordination with the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), should establish regulations requiring all polytechnics to implement comprehensive campus security systems that prioritise prevention, cooperation, and ongoing assessment.

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