



School Security Management for Effective Learning: The Role of Teachers in Enhancing School security in Sokoto metropolitan schools

Mustapha Umar¹ & Sulaiman Umar²

**¹Department of Islamic Studies
Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic, Sokoto State, Nigeria
Contacts: +2348061347061
Email: mustaphaumar15@gmail.com**

**²Sokoto State Teachers Service Board, Sokoto, Nigeria
Contacts: +2348033528328
Email: sulaimanu121@gmail.com**

ABSTRACT

School security covers all actions put in place to protect threats in happening to people and their properties in education environment (Goodwin, 2016). School safety or security as it implies in other sources has been defined as the shelter of students from violence and bullying, as well as exposure to harmful elements such as drugs and gang activity (safe supportive learning, 2018). This phenomenon is what led the researcher interested to carry out this research to investigate the role played by the school management especially the teachers on the security management in their schools. This research used qualitative method of data collection, three secondary schools which are characterized with most population of student was taken into the research coverage; and 8 Principals and 20 teachers, as total 28 persons were interviewed by asking open ended questions. The views of the participants received along with the security related issues such as security problem sources, school policies and decisions and school support services was realized. The data was analyzed by qualitative techniques. The findings of the study revealed that there are roles played by the school management and teachers in ensuring their school security for the safety of their student and the academic activities, they ensure regular monitoring and supervision during the school hours, it was also found out that many schools benefit from the security vigilante system to maintain the peaceful atmosphere of learning.

Keywords: School Security, Management, Effective Learning

INTRODUCTION

School security covers all actions put in place to protect threats in happening to people and their properties in education environment (Goodwin, 2016). School safety or security as it implies in other sources has been defined as the shelter of students from violence and bullying, as well as exposure to harmful elements such as drugs and gang activity (safe supportive learning, 2018). Just like other places school is a place that can be at risk of attacked from the outside as well as attack from students because of high traffic of potential assailants and availability of victims, who can be harm or harm others, which can also bring a mass destruction of the school environment and the academic activities in the school. According to Lessne, and Debora (2016), in their survey shows that there is relationship between bullying victimization and other variables such as gangs, gun, drugs, and alcohol at school, and they also authority to make selection of security measures such as avoidance behaviour etc.

Fatima et al. (2010) in their article stated that “as open systems, the schools have been deeply affected by the economical, political, and social conditions of our time, and have been exposed to many undesirable events and behaviours such as substance addiction, violence, child abuse, sabotage, and the like. Sokoto state is one of the northern states in Nigeria that sometime can be classified as among the state growing up in terms of western education (BBC, 2019). According to Hassan et al. (2020) in their article found that the role of Sokoto State government in particular, regarding the sustainability of human development in the education sector, about 10,120 families are currently benefiting from the conditional cash transfer introduced by the state government purposely to enhance girl child education in the state. This was stated by Alhaji Musa Lumu, who was a former chairman of Gwadabawa area made this known in Sokoto. He further stated that the families were given N15,000 each to allow the female children to go to school. He stated that the Governor, Alhaji Aminu Waziri Tambuwal has invested so much for ensuring sustainability of child education programmes and support from basic to tertiary levels in order to move the state forward educationally. But the current insecurity situation seems to be a threat in maintaining the education level.

Statement problem

Sokoto State is one of the northern states in Nigeria that sometime can be classified as among the state growing up in terms of western education (BBC, 2019). The effort the current government has investing so much for ensuring sustainability of child education programmes and support from basic to tertiary levels in order to move the state forward educationally. With this current effort of the government for the sustainable development of education for the entire community in the state it was an appropriate notion to reinstall the safety and security system of the school because of the current insecurity situation across all the northern state which may possibly hinder the schooling system of the student. This phenomenon is what led the research interest to carry out this research to investigate the role of teachers in enhancing school security in Sokoto metropolitan schools.

Literature Review

School security covers all actions put in place to protect threats in happening to people and their properties in education environment (Goodwin, 2016). School safety or security as it implies in other sources has been defined as the shelter of students from violence and bullying, as well as exposure to harmful elements such as drugs and gang activity (safe supportive learning, 2018). Just like other places school is a place that can be at risk of attacked from the outside as well as attack from students because of high traffic of potential assailants and availability of victims, who can be harm or harm others, which can also bring a mass destruction of the school environment and the academic activities in the school. According to Lessne, and Debora (2016), in their survey shows that there is relationship between bullying victimization and other variables such as gangs, gun, drugs, and alcohol at school, and they also authority to make selection of security measures such as avoidance behaviour etc.

Similarly, Aber et al. (1996) in their research clarifies those children between the ages 6 and 12, beliefs about aggression and their tendencies to attribute hostile intent to others' actions are developing rapidly. Therefore, several interventions have been developed to target this age group. In this regards it indicated that schools are really commended with the responsibility to tackle the issues of insecurity among their student in order to create or make them become good citizens of tomorrow. A secure environment is a prerequisite for effective teaching and learning, in this way ensuring safety of student lays solely on the teachers and other staff in the school environment.

In another hint school security has been defined as creating safe environment for children, starting from their homes to their schools and back to their homes. This includes safety from any kind of abuse, violence, psycho-social issues, disaster natural and manmade (Vkaspedia 2019).

When children and adolescents are faced with social situations for which they are unprepared emotionally and cognitively, they may respond with aggression or violence. Many assert that we can improve children's ability to avoid violent situations and solve problems non-violently by enhancing their social

relationships with peers, teaching them how to interpret behavioural cues, and improving their conflict-resolution skills (Nadel et al. 1996).

Security or safety in schools is necessary to support the academic success of each child, giving them the opportunity to learn and achieve in a safe and conducive environment.

The security of the school premises is an important part of ensuring the personal safety of student. In a BBC investigation (2014), stated that more than 30,000 alleged crimes linked to schools were reported to police in America and other many countries in the world. School security is unique in several ways. It serves not only to keep unwanted visitors out of the school but also to keep staff and students safe inside the school building. Security in schools has never been as important as it is now.

In US over 74% of education related threats were middle schools, junior high, and high schools. Due to safety threats, during the 2013-2014 school year, reports say 93% of public schools lock or monitor doors and gets as a means of controlling access to the school NCES (2018).

According to Elda (2009) school safety can be taken in a narrow way, safety and securities in education are linked to eliminating physical harm. Yet an extensive interpretation reveals all risks concerning learners' welfare as a safety/security matter.

Violence by young people is one of the most visible forms of violence. Both fatal and non-fatal assaults involving young people contribute greatly to the global burden of premature death, injury and disability. Youth violence deeply harms not only its victims, but also their families, friends and communities (WHO 2002).

Chris et al. (2019) in their article "School Security measures" state that one of the important of the school context include the presence of physical security measures, especially those that focus on the monitoring and control of students such as security guards and security cameras.

In educational environment, one term connected to school security school safety, which is defined as the sheltering of students from violence and bullying. In other words, school security is freedom or resilience against potential harm or other unwanted coercive change caused by others.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this research is to find out the role played by the teachers in enhancing school security in Sokoto metropolis. The major objective shall be achieved through the following specific:

1. To find out the role played by the teachers in enhancing their school security for peaceful academic activity
2. To investigate the ways used by the teachers in enhancing their school security
3. To examine the teachers effort for maintaining their school security

METHODOLOGY

This research will use qualitative method of data collection, three secondary schools which are characterized with security problems will be taken into the research coverage; and 8 Principals and 20 teacher, as total 28 persons will be interviewed by asking open ended questions. , the study decides to use interview with open ended questions as the basic tool and instrument for the data collection, because it helping to standardized and organize the collection and processing of the information needed for the study. The responses of the participants will be analysed using themes related to school security issues.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

The responses of the participants for the question related to the main problem sources in school insecurity have been given in their own words. According to the views of the schools managers (Administrators) and teachers their responses were as follows.

What could be the possible security problems in schools?

One of the participants (P1) in his own words stated that:

“There is lack of family interest to fully participate in the school activities such as school base management community, and during this gathering many things were usually discuss to curtail the issue of peaceful coexistence in the school”

Another participant (P3) stated that:

“I think one of the sources of our school security problem is inadequate physical conditions. Even though there school guards but some of them were old enough to be retired but they are still be given contract because there are no enough young youth who can take on the services”

From the above responses with can see that majority of the school has the same problem that can hinder the security management in the school. This is what makes the parents and students to have fear of the school for possibility of any danger could happen that will lead to the harm to their life and other similar responses.

Strategies for effective atmosphere of learning

Furthermore in term of the strategies that could be used to have effective atmosphere of learning environment the following responses were found to be put in place for the school to be used.

One of the participants (P2) expresses his opinion as he stated that:

“If a school wants to take measures for effective learning it should make division of labour that is to say the security and the teachers should be vigilant to the task of securing the school since in the morning the teachers are available they should put hands together to maintain the school security for both the students activities and the premises of the school for any suspicious movement of anything”.

Another participant (P3) stated that:

“It is good for the school to cooperate with other organization to come up with a team that will use as the school security managers in the school, so that everything concerning the insecurity will be single handed to them for effective security management in the schools”

Another participant (P3) has the opinion that:

“There is need for the school and other stake holder to impose in the educational curriculum to be emphasise the security studies for the teachers and the school managers so that everyone who have the knowledge will be employ to teach or assign to become the school manager”

From the above responses it is clearly observed that there are lot of strategies which were put in place to enhance the security system it the schools, and also which could be followed to protect the future occurrence of issues of insecurity in the school. This shows that teachers from the schools were very cautious about the safety of their school, and they also make a role that is very effective in the school.

What are the policies and decisions that school needed to impose?

The respondents related to the school policy and decisions about the school security are that, there is an emergency action plan; all of the responses indicate that there is no action plan. However, some of the respondents have stated that they have some information about the presence of some plans related to earthquake, civil protection, and fire. But they have not been aware of the details and have not participated in the training activities. This situation indicates that the managers and teachers do not seriously deal with the emergency action plans related to school security.

One of the participants (P8) stated that:

“There is emergency communication line at schools, so that whenever a suspicious movement was observed in and outside the school the school usually tell the agency responsible for the security immediately”.

Another participant (P12) mentioned that:

“Everyone among us has to be vigilant at any time because some of those issues concerning security supposed to be active always whether there is sign of any incident that could happen, this is what usually reduce the possible causes of harmful incidents to occur for both live and properties in the school.

From the responses of the above participant it indicated that teachers mainly used measures that can curtail the menace of any problem that could lead to violence or even cause a difficult situation in the school, this is another role played by them in ensuring the safety in the schools.

Who are those involved in the school security management?

In this issue of who was involved in the responsibility of ensuring safety of the school, most of the respondents have conferred that students have not taken place in problem solving process; Social and sports activities are not sufficient. But the cooperation with the society (families, security and health organizations, civil society organizations) has been generally found sufficient by both managers and teachers.

One of the participants (P10) mentioned that:

“In the process of ensuring safety in the school there is needed to involve individuals who are currently living in the school not only the teachers even the students need to be involved”.

Another participant (P15) added that:

“Even the guidance and counselling session is another way for improving the security and peace among the students; it can be used to manage the behaviour of the students which can lead to violence. Therefore guidance and counsellors need to be involved in the school security management”.

Furthermore, another participant (P17) has the opinion that:

“I think even the school cleaners need to be involved because most of the time they are the first people to be in the school before everyone, therefore they should be involved and they need to be train so that they can handle the issue whenever it arises”.

Form the above express we can say that the participants have observed the best way for improving the school security by mobilizing different persons in the situation who has the hands in the school for the academic activities to be safe and effective. Those members mentioned were normally the school manager even though they play fewer roles in the academic activities but they are very important.

Is there any training for the personnel (Teachers?)

There are problems in school training activities, school support services, and emergency action plan, social and sport activities. This is one of the major problems concerning the security management, this why the respondents express their feeling as follows.

One of the participants (19) mentioned that:

“I can tell you that we had no any special training concerning this issue, and this is why sometime when the problem occurs in the school we find it difficult to maintain it because we had limit method and strategies to calm down the situation”.

Another participant (P20) added that:

“As a teacher I have never been in the security training some time I feel afraid to confront a mob of students when they are in quarrel with their colleagues”.

From the above responses of the participant it is clear that the teachers are not receiving any special train concerning the school security, this is another problem that can hinder the maintenance of the safety among the student when it arises we can say that the teacher were left behind in the management of the school system.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The results according to the responses of the respondents the school managers and teachers reveal that there have been lots of role they played in relation with the schools security in this research. Even though there are some challenges they faced such as Lack of family interest, physical inadequacy, disruptive school environment, social and cultural structure are some of the issues cited by most of the teachers. This in corroboration with Donmez and Guven (2002) who stated that threatening school environment, low socio-cultural structure, insulting behaviours towards teachers and students, inadequate regulations and legislation were seen problems in managing the safety of school. Additionally they revealed that they had less training which is another challenge to their responsibilities. But in other hand they play a vital role in ensuring that the sustainable security and safety of the school environment and learning take pale effectively. Moreover, they have strategies in the need for emergency response from the security forces when there is any security problem such as communication line for the agency.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the respondents' responses as managers and teachers, related to the security problems at schools, reveal that there are serious security gaps and problems at schools. Another attention drawn point is that the managers and teachers generally share mutual concerns and thoughts related to school security problems. Related to the problem sources in school security, the first most articulated issue is lack of family interest. Physical inadequacy, disruptive school environment are indicated by more than half of the respondents. But the school management and the teachers has put in place a strategic method of dealing with the security in the school style, educational curriculum, teacher-student relationship, media, and cooperation with the other organizations are other problem sources articulated less than half of the respondents. These results have indicated that, there are various and serious problem sources threatening school security at the schools.

Therefore, from the findings of the study the following recommendations were highlighted in order to bring the end of schools problems on the issue of security.

1. There is need for the concern authority to bring more security personal at the school so especially young personnel so that the security will be tighten every moment.
2. The management and the teachers should be giving special training so that they can handle minor crime cases in the school.
3. Other organization need to liaise with the school and educational authority to maintain the safety of school and the students.
4. More measure should be brought out to help the school management and the teacher to make a peaceful atmosphere of learning always.
5. All the schools should develop an emergency action plan taking into consideration the school environment, threatening conditions, and problem sources; and every personnel in the school should know what to do in destructive situations.

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