

A Study of the Strategies Used by the Security Division of Federal University Dutse in Combating Theft

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Abstract: The paper examined the strategies used by the security division of Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State in combating theft. It tried to understand the strategies used by the university security division in combating theft. A total of 356 respondents were selected as sample size from the university security division using total coverage. 356 sample were selected for quantitative data, the quantitative data collected were processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), with the findings presented in frequency distribution tables and percentages. The findings revealed that the security division has made strides in the prevention and control of theft through efficient strategies such as patrol and guards, access control systems, criminal investigation, faculty security outpost. In light of these findings, the study recommends that the Federal University Dutse management should invest in advanced security technology, such as CCTV cameras and access control systems, to improve surveillance and monitoring. The University Security Division should also conduct regular patrols, particularly at night, and ensure efficient lighting across campus to deter theft.

Keywords: Division, Strategies, Security, Theft.

Introduction

The existence of institutional security arrangement symbolizes the growing concern over the safety of lives and properties of people in any society where such arrangement is made. The development of the institutional security is attributed to a number of factors such as the increase in institutions, private businesses, inadequacies of the conventional security apparatus and the need to complement the services provided by the public security. The rise in crimes in both public and private organizations as well as the growth of the local and multinational corporation in Nigeria are also considered as other predisposing factors responsible for the emergence and proliferation of institutional security sector in Nigeria (Abrahamsen and Williams, 2005). In view of the foregoing, the government gives license to institutions that seek to establish proprietary (in-house) security divisions (security guards) in order to complement the activities of the formal law enforcement agencies like the police and other sister security organizations in combating crime. This informs the establishment of in-house security departments in both public and private organizations in Nigeria. The security departments comprise of institutional based security guards that play a vital role in combating crimes in the institution. They provide proactive and reactive services aimed at preventing and controlling crime prevention in universities.

The growing number of crimes on university campuses skyrockets the needs for complementary roles in enhancing its security. To this end, tertiary institutions utilize their in-house security units/department to effectively curtail the menace of criminal activities being committed in the campuses. The university security units/department operates within the domain of the institution

and are working within the confines of law to safeguard the lives and properties of people in the campuses. However, the complex nature of the university environment has made crimes common, with theft as the most frequently committed offense on campus (Muhammad, et al, 2018).

Today, the prevalence of theft cases within university environment across the nation becomes an issue of serious concern that require strong security measures that can adequately deal with the menace. Accordingly, University security departments develop their own strategies of combating various crimes being perpetrated in the campus. Some of the strategies adopted by university security in combating crimes include access control, beat patrol, mobile patrol, surveillance, intelligence gathering, crowd control and VIP protection among others.

However, campus security is a critical concern for universities worldwide, as it directly impacts the safety and well-being of students, staff of Federal University Dutse. Like many other institutions, Federal University Dutse faces security challenges, including theft, which can undermine the academic environment and institutional assets. The university security division play a vital role in maintaining a secure campus, and their strategies for combating theft are of a greater paramount.

Although universities establish and maintain their proprietary security, crime on campuses continue to increase with varying degree of consequences on individual victims, university management and in some cases the host community. In light of the above, this study is set to examine the strategies used by Federal University Security Division in combating theft.

Conceptualizing Theft

Theft is the central offence against property and it has been defined by various scholars and proscribed by law as an offense that leads to punishment. The offences against property, unlike offences against the person, are largely in statutory form, the major statutes being the Theft Act 1968, amended and supplemented by the Theft Act 1978, and the Criminal Damage Act 1971. Theft is a serious crime that involves taking someone else's property without their permission. This act is against the law and can result in severe consequences for the perpetrator. Understanding the nature of theft and its implications is crucial in maintaining a responsible and law-abiding society. Theft is defined as the unlawful taking of someone else's property with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of it. This act encompasses a variety of scenarios, including stealing physical objects, embezzling funds, or unlawfully obtaining someone else's intellectual property (Cremona, 1989).

According to section 383(1) of the criminal code, when a person fraudulently takes anything capable of being stolen, fraudulently converts to his own use or to the use of any other person anything of being stolen, is said to steal that thing. Theft, instead of stealing is used in the Penal Code and defined in section 286(1) as 'whoever intending to take dishonestly any movable property out of the possession of any person without the person's consent, moves that property in order to take it is said to commit theft.' In other words, theft can be described as the wrongful taking or conversion of property belonging to another (Obilade, 1978).

Theft, in law, a general term covering a variety of specific types of stealing, including the crimes of larceny, robbery, and burglary. Theft is defined as the physical removal of an object that is capable of being stolen without the consent of the owner and with the intention of depriving the owner of it permanently. The thief need not intend to keep the property himself; an intention to destroy it, sell it, or abandon it in circumstances where it will not be found is sufficient.

Review of Relevant Literature

Strategies Used by University Security Division in Combating Theft

There are many strategies adopted by the University Security Division in crime prevention and control where ever they are employed for that purpose. These strategies include; intelligence gathering, criminal investigation, surveillance and patrol.

Intelligence gathering

Intelligence gathering has to do with collecting of relevant information that will assist the security agencies particularly the private security guards in crime prevention and control. The university security guards often gather relevant information which is used in crime prevention and control. There is need for University Security Unit to adopt this method of operation (i.e intelligence gathering) in order to succeed in gathering such information the criminal hide out can be easily located. (Yecho, 2005). The University Security guards particularly those in universities like FUD are vested with the responsibility to prevent and control crimes that are peculiar to the institution.

Criminal Investigation

Criminal investigation is another common method of operation used by university security division in the prevention of theft. It has to do with identifying, discovering and presenting evidence in order to identify what happened and who is responsible for committing an offence (Abdullahi, 2016). The major goal of criminal investigation by the university security division is to identify the criminal, pursue justice and address problem in the university. University security guards use to cogently and logically investigate cases, interrogate suspect and interview witnesses to identify who actually commit an offence (Williams 1996). He further argued that criminal investigation is far beyond prosecution, crime prevention and control, and also prevent the innocent from being accused. Criminal investigation is a partial step by step procedure which begins with the reporting of crime to the private security guards, initial movement to the crime scene and presenting evidence in the court of law (Abdullahi, 2016).

Patrol and Surveillance

Patrol and surveillance are another method of operation conducted by university security guards on a daily basis in order to prevent and control crime in the university. Abrahamsen and Williams (2005) argued that the rationale behind patrol and surveillance is to prevent crime from occurring and necessarily prosecute the criminals. They further argued that both patrol and surveillance are proactive measures because they prevent the occurrence of a crime in the society. Samuel (2015) argued that, patrol and surveillance are the major mechanism for proactive crime prevention because it aimed at preventing people from committing crime rather than arrest and punishment which are more of reactive measure of crime prevention.

Methodology

The study adopted survey research design that utilized questionnaires. Because the research is institutional, the study adopted total coverage to select all personnel of the Federal University Dutse Security Division comprising a total number of three hundred and fifty-six (356) who are used to collect quantitative data.

Results and Discussions

The section presents responses on the strategies employed by university division in combating crime in Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State.

Table 1: Awareness of Security Measures in the Federal University Dutse

S/N	Measures	Frequency	Percentage
	Yes	159	44.7
	No	143	40.2
	No response	54	15.2
	Total	356	100.0

Table 1 presents data on the awareness of security measures in the FUD. The data shows that 44.7% of respondents are aware of the security measures implemented by the university security division, while 40.2% are not aware, and 15.2% did not respond.

Table 2: Strategies of Combating Theft in Federal University Dutse

Strategies of combating theft in Federal University Dutse	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Surveillance Cameras	176 (49.4)	180 (50.6)	356 (100)
Patrol and guard	312 (87.6)	44 (12.4)	356 (100)
Access control system	232 (65.2)	124 (34.8)	356 (100)
Awareness programmes and workshops	112 (31.5)	244 (68.5)	356 (100)
Collaboration with formal law enforcement agencies	283 (79.5)	73 (20.5)	356 (100)
Criminal investigation	201 (56.5)	155 (43.5)	356 (100)

The table above presents the strategies of combating theft in Federal University Dutse where 49.4% of the respondents said surveillance cameras while 50.6% said no, 87.6% said patrols and guards while 12.4% said no, 65.2% said access control system while 34.8% said no, 31.5% said awareness programme and workshops while 68.5% said no, 79.5% said collaboration with local law enforcement agencies while 20.5% said no, 56.5% said criminal investigation while 43.5% said no. This indicates that majority of the respondents revealed that patrol and guard is the major strategy of combating theft in Federal University Dutse.

Table 3: Whether Faculties' Security Outposts Reduce Theft in Federal University Dutse

S/N	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	216	60.7
2	No	140	39.3
3	Total	356	100.0

Table 3 presents respondents' views on whether security outposts stationed at various faculties reduce the incidents of theft in FUD. Majority of the respondents (60.7%) believe that the security outposts reduce the incidents of theft in the University, while 39.3% agreed that the security outposts do not reduce the incidents of theft.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach to combating theft, including improving security measures, increasing awareness and cooperation from the university community, and addressing the root causes of theft. The study also emphasizes the importance of strengthening the capacity of the university security division, including providing training and support for security personnel, improving coordination with local law enforcement agencies, and investing in advance security technology.

From the foregoing, it is apt to claim that the study provides valuable insights into the strategies for combating theft in Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State. The findings have implications for the development of effective strategies for combating theft and improving the safety and security of the university community. It is hoped that the recommendations arising from this study will be implemented by the university administration and other stakeholders to reduce the incidence of theft and improve the overall security of the

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The management should invest in advance security technology, such as CCTV cameras and access control systems, to improve surveillance and monitoring.
2. The management also has to improve collaboration with law enforcement agencies to enhance the response to theft incidents.

3. Establish a security committee comprising representatives from the university administration, security personnel, and student leaders to oversee security matters and make recommendations for improvement.
4. The University Security Division should be conducting regular patrols and monitoring of the university premises to deter and detect theft.

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