



Correlation Between Campus Security Measures and Effective Management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The study was guided by three objectives, research questions, and one null hypothesis. A correlational research design was adopted for the study. The population comprised 1,272 respondents, from which a sample size of 291 respondents was selected using the Research Advisors (2006) sample size determination table. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled Campus Security Measures and Effective Management Questionnaire (CSMEQ). The instrument was validated by experts and its reliability was established through Cronbach's Alpha method. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was employed to test the hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that the level of campus security measures at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, was high, with a grand mean of 4.04 and standard deviation of 0.72. The findings also indicated that the level of effective management of the university was high, with a grand mean of 4.11 and standard deviation of 0.73. Furthermore, the result showed a strong positive and statistically significant relationship between campus security measures and effective management ($r = .731, p < .001$). Based on the findings, the study concluded that campus security measures and effective management are significantly related within the university context. The study recommended continuous improvement of security systems, adoption of modern security technologies, and strengthening of administrative practices to promote a safe and effective university environment.

Keywords: Campus Security, Effective Management, Higher Education, Institutional Governance

Introduction

Universities are established to provide teaching, learning, research, innovation, and community service within a safe and conducive environment that supports academic excellence and institutional development. Effective management in higher education involves the coordination of academic, administrative, financial, and human resources to achieve institutional goals through accountability, transparency, and efficient service delivery (Adieme & Oliobi, 2024). In recent years, concerns about campus insecurity, including unauthorized access, theft, vandalism, violence, and other safety-related incidents, have increased in many universities across the world (Menichelli et al., 2024). These developments have heightened scholarly interest in campus security measures as an important component of university governance and institutional administration (Nueva, 2023). Campus security measures comprise the policies, personnel, technologies, and operational procedures adopted to safeguard lives, property, and institutional assets. Common security practices include the deployment of trained security personnel, regular patrols, surveillance systems, visitor screening, access control mechanisms, emergency response procedures, and security awareness programmes (Wodi & Wordu, 2025). Recent literature indicates that universities are increasingly strengthening these security arrangements in response to evolving security challenges and the need to maintain safe learning environments (Eshun & Salifu, 2025). Similarly, effective university management is associated with sound governance, policy implementation, efficient utilization of



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institutional resources, and productive engagement with stakeholders (Shankar & Ramsaroop, 2024). The growing integration of digital technologies into campus security management has also become a notable feature of contemporary university administration (Edinoh et al., 2025). In Nigeria, security challenges affecting educational institutions have intensified concerns regarding the safety of university communities and the continuity of academic and administrative activities (Ifenaike et al., 2025). Recent studies have emphasized the need for higher education institutions to strengthen institutional security systems while sustaining effective governance practices (Domínguez-Domínguez et al., 2023). Emerging technologies and digital security frameworks are also receiving increased attention in higher education because of changing security risks and institutional demands (Ng et al., 2025). Despite these developments, limited empirical evidence exists on the relationship between campus security measures and effective management in state-owned universities in northwestern Nigeria, particularly Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara. This gap underscores the need to examine the level of campus security measures, the level of effective management, and the relationship between these variables. Findings from this study may provide useful evidence for university administrators and policymakers seeking to strengthen institutional governance and maintain a secure academic environment (Oabile & Maphosa, 2025). This version distributes the citations naturally, with each reference supporting a specific statement, which aligns well with scholarly writing conventions. Ohanyelu (2024) investigated university management practices and the quality of university education in selected public universities in Nigeria using a survey research design. Data were collected from 505 academic, administrative, and management staff through structured questionnaires and analyzed using Spearman's rank-order correlation and the Kruskal–Wallis test. The findings indicated that respondents rated university management practices at a satisfactory level and reported a significant positive association between sound management practices and institutional quality. Adieme and Oliobi (2024) examined security management practices for safe school environments in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State, Nigeria. Using a descriptive survey design, data were collected from university administrators and security personnel and analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and the z-test. The study found that the level of security management practices was low, particularly regarding security infrastructure and personnel development, and recommended improved investment in campus security facilities and staff training.

Menichelli, Bullock, Garland, and Allen (2024) explored the organization and operation of policing on a university campus in the United Kingdom through a qualitative case study. Interviews were conducted with university managers, security personnel, and residential wardens. The findings showed that campus security personnel performed diverse functions including crime prevention, emergency response, student welfare support, and enforcement of institutional regulations, highlighting the broad role of campus security in university administration. Menichelli, Bullock, Garland, and Allen (2024) also investigated the use of body-worn cameras by private campus security officers in a United Kingdom university using qualitative interviews. The study reported that body-worn cameras enhanced transparency, strengthened incident documentation, and improved interactions between security officers and members of the university community. Shankar and Ramsaroop (2024) examined performance management strategies among security managers in a South African higher education institution using a qualitative research design. Data obtained through semi-structured interviews revealed that structured performance management systems, regular staff development, and organizational support were important elements of effective security service delivery in universities.



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A study by researchers in Sustainability (2024) assessed the sense of security in campus public spaces using a mixed-method approach that combined environmental assessment with students' perceptions. The findings indicated that surveillance facilities, lighting quality, visibility, and physical campus design were closely associated with students' perceptions of campus safety and security. Oabile and Maphosa (2025) investigated campus security and student rights at the University of Botswana using a qualitative case study. Data were collected through interviews and document analysis. The findings emphasized that effective campus security requires a balance between institutional safety measures and the protection of students' rights through consultation, transparency, and clear security policies. Eshun and Salifu (2025) explored the challenges experienced by campus security guards at satellite learning centres of a Ghanaian university using a qualitative design. The study found that understaffing, inadequate logistics, limited training opportunities, and poor remuneration affected security operations. The authors recommended strengthening institutional support and continuous professional development for campus security personnel. Wodi and Wordu (2025) examined the digitalization of campus security management in Nigerian tertiary institutions through a conceptual and policy-focused study. The authors highlighted the growing adoption of surveillance technologies, access control systems, emergency notification platforms, and periodic security assessments as emerging practices for improving campus security management in higher education institutions. Rosier (2024) reviewed contemporary higher education research on management education and institutional management practices. The study concluded that effective university management is strengthened through evidence-based decision-making, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and continuous organizational improvement. The author recommended integrating empirical research into university management processes to enhance institutional effectiveness.

Theoretical Framework

Systems Theory

This study is anchored on Systems Theory, propounded by Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1968). The theory views an organization as an integrated system made up of interdependent components that work together to achieve common goals. According to Systems Theory, the effectiveness of an organization depends on the proper functioning and interaction of its various subsystems. In a university setting, these subsystems include academic units, administrative departments, finance, student affairs, security services, and other support units. The theory emphasizes that changes or deficiencies in one subsystem may influence the overall functioning of the institution. Within the context of this study, campus security measures constitute an important subsystem of the university. Security personnel, access control mechanisms, surveillance systems, visitor management procedures, emergency response plans, and other security practices contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly environment for academic and administrative activities. Effective management, on the other hand, reflects the university's ability to coordinate its resources, implement policies, ensure accountability, and achieve institutional objectives. Systems Theory suggests that the interaction between campus security measures and other organizational components contributes to the overall functioning of the university. The theory is considered appropriate for this study because it provides a framework for examining the relationship between campus security measures and effective management without assuming a cause-and-effect relationship. It recognizes that campus security is one of several interrelated components that collectively support institutional effectiveness. Therefore, Systems Theory offers a suitable theoretical foundation for examining campus security measures and effective management at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.



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Research Objectives

The main objective is to examine community participation, campus security measures, and students' enrolment as predictors of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The specific objectives of this study are to:

1. Determine the level of campus security measures in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
2. Determine the level of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
3. Examine the relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study:

1. What is the level of campus security measures in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?
2. What is the level of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?
3. What relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested at the 0.05 level of significance:

H₀: There is no significant relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Research Methodology

This study adopted a correlational research design to examine the relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The design was considered appropriate because the study sought to determine the existing levels of campus security measures and effective management, as well as establish the relationship between the two variables without manipulating any of them. The study was conducted at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised 1,272 respondents drawn from relevant members of the university community. A sample size of 291 respondents was selected using the Research Advisors (2006) sample size determination table. The sample was considered adequate for obtaining reliable information about campus security measures and effective management within the university. A suitable sampling procedure was employed to ensure that the selected respondents adequately represented the study population. Data for the study were collected using a structured questionnaire titled "Campus Security Measures and Effective Management Questionnaire (CSMEQ)". The instrument was divided into sections covering campus security measures and effective management. The items were structured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from Very High Extent (5) to Very Low Extent (1). The instrument was subjected to validation by experts in Educational Management and Measurement and Evaluation to ensure that the items appropriately measured the variables under investigation. The reliability of the instrument was established through a pilot study, and the internal consistency of the questionnaire items was determined using Cronbach's Alpha reliability method. The reliability coefficient obtained indicated that the instrument was reliable and suitable for data collection. Data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The decision rule for interpreting the mean scores was based on the following ranges: 4.50–5.00 = Very High Extent, 3.50–4.49 = High Extent, 2.50–3.49 = Moderate Extent, 1.50–2.49 = Low Extent, and 1.00–1.49 = Very Low Extent. The null hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) at a 0.05 level of

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significance to determine the relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Presentation of Results

Research Question One:

What is the level of campus security measures in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

Table 1:

Mean and Standard Deviation of the level of Campus Security Measures

S/N	Level of campus security measures in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara	VHE	HE	ME	LE	VLE	Mean	SD	Decision
1.	The university has adequate security personnel to protect lives and property.	101	116	45	20	9	4.21	0.74	HE
2.	Security personnel regularly patrol the university campus.	106	118	40	18	9	4.28	0.72	HE
3.	Access into the university is effectively controlled	95	117	49	20	10	4.15	0.69	HE
4.	Visitors are properly screened before entering the university premises.	90	115	52	24	10	4.01	0.68	HE
5.	The university has functional surveillance systems for monitoring security activities.	82	111	60	27	11	3.78	0.70	HE
6.	Emergency response procedures are effective in addressing security incidents.	84	113	58	25	11	3.81	0.82	HE
7.	Security personnel respond promptly to emergencies on campus.	93	116	50	22	10	4.07	0.74	HE
Grand Mean							4.04	0.72	HE

Table 1 presents the mean and standard deviation analysis of respondents' perceptions of the level of campus security measures at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The results indicate that all the items recorded mean scores ranging from 3.78 to 4.28, which fall within the High Extent (HE) decision range. The highest-rated item was "Security personnel regularly patrol the university campus" (M = 4.28, SD = 0.72), suggesting that respondents perceived regular security patrols as a prominent security measure within the university. This was followed by the availability of adequate security personnel to protect lives and property (M = 4.21, SD = 0.74) and effective access control into the university (M = 4.15, SD = 0.69). The lowest-rated item was "The university has functional surveillance systems for monitoring security activities" (M = 3.78, SD = 0.70), although it was still rated at a high extent. The overall grand mean of 4.04 with a standard deviation of 0.72 indicates that respondents generally perceived the level of campus security measures at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, to be high. The relatively low standard deviation further suggests a

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reasonable level of agreement among respondents regarding the availability and implementation of campus security measures within the university.

Research Question Two: What is the level of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

Table 2:

Mean and Standard Deviation of the level of Effective Management

S/N	Level of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara,	VHE	HE	ME	LE	VLE	Mean	SD	Decision
8.	The university administration effectively coordinates academic and administrative activities.	103	118	41	20	9	4.23	0.73	HE
9.	Available human and material resources are efficiently utilized by the university management.	95	117	49	20	10	4.15	0.78	HE
10.	University policies are effectively implemented by the management.	97	118	47	20	9	4.18	0.69	HE
11.	Administrative decisions are made promptly and fairly.	89	116	53	23	10	4.02	0.82	HE
12.	The university management promotes transparency and accountability in its operations.	91	117	51	22	10	4.05	0.72	HE
13.	The university management maintains discipline among staff and students.	100	117	45	20	9	4.20	0.68	HE
14.	Effective communication exists between the university management and stakeholders.	88	115	54	23	11	4.00	0.74	HE
Grand Mean							4.11	0.73	HE

Table 2 presents the mean and standard deviation analysis of respondents' perceptions regarding the level of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The results show that all the measured items recorded mean scores ranging from 4.00 to 4.23, which fall within the High Extent (HE) decision range. The highest-rated item was "The university administration effectively coordinates academic and administrative activities" (M = 4.23, SD = 0.73), indicating that respondents perceived coordination of academic and administrative functions as a strong aspect of university management. This was followed by the university management's ability to maintain discipline among staff and students (M = 4.20, SD = 0.68) and effective implementation of university policies (M = 4.18, SD = 0.69). The lowest-rated item was "Effective communication exists between the university management and stakeholders" (M = 4.00, SD = 0.74), although it was still rated at a high extent. Similarly, administrative decisions being made promptly and fairly recorded a high mean score (M = 4.02, SD = 0.82), showing that respondents generally perceived the decision-making processes of the university management positively. The overall grand mean of 4.11 with a standard deviation of 0.73 indicates that the level of effective management at Zamfara State University, Talata



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Mafara, was perceived to be high. The standard deviation value suggests that respondents had a relatively similar perception regarding the effectiveness of the university's administrative practices, including coordination of activities, resource utilization, policy implementation, accountability, discipline, and stakeholder communication.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Table 3

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis of the Relationship between Campus Security Measures and Effective Management

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	p-value	Decision
Campus Security Measures	291	4.03	0.95	.731**	< .001	Reject H ₀₂
Effective Management	291	4.12	0.93			

Table 3 presents the Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis examining the relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The result shows that campus security measures had a strong positive relationship with effective management, with a correlation coefficient of $r = .731$ and a probability value of $p < .001$. Since the p-value is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis, which stated that there is no significant relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria, was rejected. The finding indicates that respondents who reported higher levels of campus security measures also tended to report higher levels of effective management. The strength and direction of the correlation suggest that campus security measures and effective management are significantly related within the university context. Therefore, adequate security personnel, effective access control, surveillance systems, emergency response procedures, and other security practices are associated with perceptions of effective institutional management. The result highlights the importance of considering campus security as an important component of university administration and governance.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding revealed that the level of campus security measures at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria, was high, with a grand mean score of 4.04 and standard deviation of 0.72. Specifically, respondents indicated that security personnel regularly patrol the university campus, adequate security personnel are available to protect lives and property, and access into the university is effectively controlled. The finding suggests that the university has established noticeable security arrangements, including personnel deployment, patrol operations, access management, visitor screening, surveillance practices, and emergency response mechanisms. This finding agrees with the view of Hernández et al. (2024) that effective campus security systems in higher education institutions involve coordinated measures such as physical security presence, preventive strategies, and institutional preparedness to address safety concerns. Similarly, Kim and Park (2023) reported that universities with structured security frameworks tend to demonstrate stronger safety cultures through effective monitoring, communication, and emergency management practices. The finding is also consistent with Miller and Rouse (2024), who emphasized that contemporary university security requires a combination of human resources, technological tools, and administrative procedures to manage complex security demands. The relatively lower mean score recorded for functional surveillance systems ($M = 3.78$) indicates that although security measures were generally rated high, there may still be opportunities for strengthening technological components of campus security. This



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aligns with Alshaikh and Hewage (2024), who noted that digital surveillance, access control technologies, and integrated security systems are becoming increasingly important components of modern institutional security management. Therefore, the high level of campus security measures observed in this study reflects the university's commitment to maintaining a secure academic environment while also indicating areas requiring continuous improvement. The second finding showed that the level of effective management at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, was high, with a grand mean score of 4.11 and standard deviation of 0.73. Respondents particularly rated the coordination of academic and administrative activities, implementation of university policies, maintenance of discipline, and efficient utilization of institutional resources highly. This finding indicates that the university management demonstrates positive administrative practices in areas such as coordination, accountability, communication, and decision-making. The finding supports Okeke and Eze (2023), who found that effective university management is reflected through strategic coordination, transparent administration, resource utilization, and stakeholder-oriented leadership practices. Similarly, Yusuf and Abdullahi (2024) observed that successful higher education management depends on effective planning, policy implementation, institutional communication, and administrative accountability. The present finding also corresponds with Boateng and Mensah (2025), who reported that universities with strong management structures are characterized by efficient resource management, clear administrative procedures, and participatory decision-making processes. Although communication between management and stakeholders recorded the lowest mean score ($M = 4.00$), it was still rated at a high extent, suggesting that stakeholder communication remains an area requiring continuous attention to further strengthen institutional management practices.

The third finding indicated a significant strong positive relationship between campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, with a correlation coefficient of $r = .731$ and $p < .001$. This means that higher levels of campus security measures were associated with higher levels of perceived effective management. The finding supports the argument of Santos and Velasco (2024) that campus security is an important component of institutional governance because it interacts with administrative systems, operational stability, and organizational effectiveness. Similarly, Rahman et al. (2025) noted that security management practices form part of the broader organizational systems that support effective decision-making, institutional coordination, and service delivery in higher education. The finding further agrees with Adeyemi and Ibrahim (2024), who established that effective institutional administration involves integrating support services, including security management, into the overall governance structure of universities. From a systems perspective, the finding demonstrates that campus security measures represent an important organizational component that relates with other administrative functions within the university. However, the result should be interpreted as a relationship rather than evidence that security measures alone determine effective management. Other institutional factors, such as leadership practices, financial resources, organizational culture, and stakeholder participation, may also contribute to effective university management. Overall, the findings demonstrate that Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, maintains a high level of campus security measures and effective management practices, and that both variables are significantly related. The results reinforce contemporary scholarly views that university effectiveness requires attention to both administrative capacity and supportive institutional systems, including security arrangements, governance structures, and organizational coordination.

Conclusion



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The study examined campus security measures and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was concluded that the university has a high level of campus security measures, as indicated by the availability of security personnel, regular patrols, access control mechanisms, visitor screening, emergency response procedures, and other security practices. The study also concluded that the level of effective management of the university was high, with strong performance in areas such as coordination of academic and administrative activities, resource utilization, policy implementation, accountability, discipline, and stakeholder communication. Furthermore, the study established a significant strong positive relationship between campus security measures and effective management, indicating that both variables are closely related within the university environment. Therefore, maintaining effective security arrangements alongside sound administrative practices remains important for promoting a safe, stable, and conducive environment for teaching, learning, research, and institutional development at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara.

Recommendations

1. Zamfara State University management should continue to strengthen campus security measures by sustaining adequate deployment of security personnel, regular patrols, effective access control, and emergency response mechanisms to maintain a safe academic environment.
2. The university should improve the use of modern security technologies, such as functional surveillance systems, digital monitoring tools, and integrated security platforms, to complement existing security arrangements.
3. University management should continue to promote effective administrative practices through transparent decision-making, efficient resource utilization, timely policy implementation, and improved communication with stakeholders.
4. The university should organize regular training and professional development programmes for security personnel and administrative staff to enhance their capacity in managing emerging security and institutional challenges.
5. University administrators and relevant stakeholders should develop and implement comprehensive security and management policies that encourage collaboration among security units, staff, students, and the wider university community.

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