European Journal of Innovation in Nonformal Education (EJINE)
Volume 6 | Issue 10 | Oct - 2026 ISSN: 2795-8612

Security Strategies and Effective Management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria

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A B S T R A C T
This study investigated the relationship between security strategies and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria. Specifically, it examined the extent to which security vote strategy and community policing strategy relate to effective management of Federal Universities in the region. The study adopted a correlational survey research design. The target population comprised 12,376 non-academic staff across six Federal Universities in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. A sample of 589 respondents was selected using multistage sampling techniques. Data were collected using two validated instruments: the Security Strategies Questionnaire (SSQ) and the Effective Universities Management Questionnaire (EUMQ), with an overall Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient of 0.97. Of the 589 questionnaires administered, 549 valid copies were retrieved, representing a 92.9% return rate. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while simple linear regression was employed to test the hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance. Findings revealed that security vote strategy had a very strong positive and statistically significant relationship with effective university management ((R = .935, R^2 = .874, p < .001)). Similarly, community policing strategy had a very strong positive and statistically significant relationship with effective university management ((R = .940, R^2 = .883, p < .001)). The findings suggest that adequate security funding and effective collaboration between universities and their host communities are important for improving institutional management. The study concluded that Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria require sustainable security financing and stronger community partnerships to protect lives, property and institutional resources and maintain effective administrative operations. It recommended that university managements should ensure adequate and accountable security funding, strengthen collaboration with host communities and security agencies, and establish regular mechanisms for intelligence sharing and early warning.

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A R T I C L E I N F O
Article history:
Received 8 August 2026
Received in revised form
30 September 2026
Accepted 23 October 2026

Keywords: security strategies, security vote strategy, community policing, effective management, Federal Universities, Northeast Nigeria

Introduction

Effective management is fundamental to the achievement of university goals, including teaching, research, community service, human capital development and national development. Universities require effective planning, organisation, coordination, supervision and control of human, financial, material and technological resources to achieve these responsibilities. Effective university management also involves maintaining institutional stability, protecting university assets and creating an environment in which academic and administrative activities can proceed safely [1]. Ogunode discussed security challenges as an important concern in the administration of public universities in Nigeria, while Abana et al. examined the relationship between security management and institutional effectiveness in tertiary institutions. These studies underscore the importance of addressing institutional security as part of the broader responsibility of university management. Mamman also emphasised the relationship between security and the quality of higher education, highlighting the need for appropriate security measures and stakeholder collaboration to promote safe learning environments [2].

The importance of institutional security has become increasingly evident in Nigeria, particularly in the Northeast geopolitical zone, comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. Universities in the region operate within a challenging environment characterised by threats associated with insurgency, kidnapping, banditry, communal conflicts and other criminal activities. These threats can expose university personnel and students to danger, disrupt administrative operations, damage institutional facilities and divert resources from essential educational services. UNICEF highlighted the threats that attacks on schools pose to children's right to education in northern Nigeria, while UNESCO reported a substantial increase in attacks on educational institutions globally in 2024. These concerns demonstrate the importance of strengthening measures to protect educational institutions and sustain learning during periods of insecurity [3]. For Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria, effective security planning, adequate funding and collaboration with host communities are therefore important considerations in maintaining institutional stability and administrative effectiveness.

One security strategy requiring attention is security vote strategy, which, for the purpose of this study, refers to the provision, allocation, monitoring and utilisation of funds designated for security-related activities. University security requires financial resources for personnel training, communication equipment, surveillance systems, campus lighting, access control, perimeter protection, security patrols and emergency response. The effectiveness of these measures depends not only on the amount allocated but also on the timeliness of fund release, appropriate expenditure, accountability and alignment with identified security needs [4]. Abana et al. examined security management and institutional effectiveness in tertiary institutions, providing a relevant basis for considering the role of security management in institutional performance. Similarly, Ogunnowo et al. investigated the availability and utilisation of security facilities in Federal tertiary institutions in Enugu State, Nigeria. Their research focus highlights the importance of examining whether security facilities are available and appropriately utilised to support institutional security. Where funding is insufficient or poorly managed, university authorities may experience difficulties in maintaining security infrastructure, equipping personnel and responding promptly to emerging threats.

Okpe and Igwebuike in their study of security challenges in Nigerian universities, identified adequate funding and improved information flow between universities and their host communities as important measures for managing security challenges. Their work provides a relevant basis for examining security financing alongside collaboration with host communities. Adequate security funding can enable university administrators to provide essential facilities, maintain security equipment, conduct risk assessments and support personnel training. It may also strengthen the capacity of universities to prepare for emergencies and protect institutional resources [5]. In addition, Olumoyo et al. examined security matters in relation to academic staff service delivery in universities in Southwest Nigeria, drawing attention to the relevance of security to the functioning of higher education institutions. Thus, security vote strategy deserves empirical examination as a possible correlate of effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria.

However, the provision of security funds alone does not guarantee effective management. Financial resources must be allocated according to clearly established priorities, utilised for their intended purposes and subjected to appropriate monitoring and accountability procedures [6]. Poor planning, delayed releases and inadequate oversight may reduce the effectiveness of security expenditure. Abubakar and Sajo in their study of security management strategies and academic staff productivity at Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria, examined security management in relation to staff productivity. This provides a related perspective on the importance of security management within university operations. University management therefore needs transparent budgeting, regular security assessments and appropriate mechanisms for monitoring expenditure. The central concern is whether and to what extent security vote strategy relates to effective management in the selected Federal Universities.

Another important strategy is community policing, which involves cooperation among security agencies, institutional authorities and members of the surrounding community to identify security threats, exchange information, prevent crime and respond to security incidents [7]. Within the university environment, community policing may involve collaboration among university management, campus security personnel, traditional rulers, community leaders, residents, student representatives and relevant security agencies. Such partnerships can improve security awareness, strengthen trust, facilitate early warning and support coordinated responses to emerging threats. Gill et al. in a systematic review of community-oriented policing, examined its relationship with crime, disorder, fear of crime, police legitimacy and public satisfaction. Their review provides a broader evidence base for considering community-oriented approaches as part of strategies for improving security and relations between security providers and the public.

The relevance of community policing to university management arises from the close relationship between universities and their host communities. University campuses are connected to their surrounding environments through residential areas, commercial activities, transport networks and social interactions. Consequently, some security threats may originate outside university premises or require information from individuals living and working within host communities. Collaboration with these stakeholders can provide university authorities with additional information for identifying suspicious activities, preventing conflicts and making informed security decisions [8]. The United Nations Commission on Human Security emphasised the importance of protecting and empowering people as central elements of human security. In the university context, this perspective reinforces the need for security arrangements that protect lives and property while supporting the continuity of educational activities.

Evidence from Nigeria also supports the importance of community participation in security management. Okpe and Igwebuike recommended improved information sharing between universities and their host communities as a strategy for addressing security challenges in Nigerian universities. Similarly, Fomnya et al. examined community policing as a strategy for crime reduction in Yola North Local Government Area of Adamawa State. Their study is particularly relevant to the present research because it focuses on community policing within a local government area in Northeast Nigeria. Miller also examined community-based policing strategies for promoting development and stability in Kogi State. These studies provide a basis for considering community participation, cooperation and information sharing as relevant elements of security management. Their findings and subject areas are pertinent to the present study's examination of community policing strategy and effective management in Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria [9].

Community policing may support effective university management through joint security meetings, intelligence sharing, community sensitisation, conflict prevention and cooperation during emergencies. When university authorities maintain constructive relationships with community stakeholders, they may obtain timely information about potential threats and coordinate appropriate preventive measures. Such cooperation may help reduce avoidable disruptions, protect institutional facilities and support the continuity of academic and administrative activities. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of community policing may be constrained by inadequate communication, mistrust, unclear responsibilities and failure to act on information received. Effective community policing therefore requires sustained engagement, reliable communication channels, defined responsibilities and cooperation between university authorities

and relevant security agencies [10].

Security vote strategy and community policing have complementary roles in university security management. Adequate security funding provides the resources required to implement security measures, while community policing strengthens access to local information and stakeholder cooperation. Financial resources may support communication equipment, joint security activities, personnel training and community engagement programmes. At the same time, information obtained through community partnerships may help university administrators identify security priorities and allocate resources more appropriately. Examining these strategies separately can therefore provide evidence about their respective relationships with effective university management.

The issue is particularly relevant to the six Federal Universities covered by this study across Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. The institutions have responsibilities for managing personnel, facilities, finances and administrative services while maintaining secure environments. Their non-academic staff constitute an important part of the institutional workforce because they support finance, administration, technical operations, maintenance and student services. Security threats that disrupt university operations may consequently affect staff activities and the delivery of institutional services [11]. Their responses can provide useful evidence about security funding, community collaboration and effective university management.

Although existing studies have examined security challenges in Nigerian universities, the availability and utilisation of security facilities, security management and community-based policing, there remains a need to establish the specific relationships between security vote strategy, community policing strategy and effective management across Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria. For example, Okpe and Igwebuike examined security challenges and management strategies in Nigerian universities, while Ogunnowo et al. focused on the availability and utilisation of security facilities in Federal tertiary institutions in Enugu State. Fomnya et al. examined community policing in Yola North, Adamawa State, while Abubakar and Sajo considered security management strategies in relation to academic staff productivity at Niger Delta University. Although these studies provide relevant insights into institutional security and community policing, the present study focuses specifically on the relationship between security vote strategy, community policing strategy and effective management across six Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria. Against this background, the study investigated security strategies and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria, with particular attention to security vote strategy and community policing strategy.

Statement of the Problem

Effective management of Federal Universities requires the maintenance of a safe and stable environment in which students and staff can carry out academic, administrative and research activities without unnecessary interruption. However, persistent insecurity in Northeast Nigeria has increased the demands placed on university managements to protect lives, property, infrastructure and institutional information. Threats associated with insurgency, kidnapping, banditry, communal conflicts, theft, vandalism and other criminal activities create challenges for the continuity of university operations. These challenges require managements to develop and implement security strategies capable of preventing threats, improving institutional preparedness and ensuring the effective utilisation of university resources.

One major concern is the adequacy and management of security funding. Effective security operations require financial resources for personnel training, security equipment, communication systems, surveillance facilities, campus lighting, maintenance of security infrastructure and emergency response. Where funds are inadequate, delayed or improperly utilised, university managements may find it difficult to implement security plans and respond effectively to emerging threats. Such limitations may expose university personnel and property to avoidable risks and divert management attention and resources from core institutional responsibilities. However, the extent to which security vote strategy relates to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria requires further empirical clarification.

Another concern is the effectiveness of community policing. Federal Universities interact regularly with

their host communities, and these communities may provide valuable information about emerging security threats. Effective collaboration between university authorities, community leaders, residents and security agencies can facilitate intelligence sharing, early warning, conflict prevention and timely responses to security incidents [12]. Conversely, weak communication, inadequate stakeholder participation and poor coordination may limit the capacity of university managements to identify and address security threats promptly. Although community policing is regarded as a useful approach to security management, it remains necessary to establish the extent to which it relates to effective management in Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria.

The central problem, therefore, is the need for empirical evidence on the relationships between security vote strategy, community policing strategy and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate security strategies and effective management of federal universities in Northeast, Nigeria. Specifically, this study seeks to find out the extent to which:

i. Security vote strategy relates to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria.

ii. Community policing strategy relates to effective management of Federal

Universities in Northeast, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The study will be guided by the following research questions:

i. To what extent does security vote strategy relate to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria?

ii. To what extent does community policing strategy relate to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

Ho1 There is no significant relationship between security vote strategy and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria

Ho2 Community policing strategy does not significantly relate to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a correlational survey research design to examine the relationship between security vote strategy, community policing strategy and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria. The design was considered appropriate because it enabled the researcher to obtain data from non-academic staff and determine the extent to which the two security strategies were related to effective university management without manipulating the study variables. Data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to respondents in the selected Federal Universities.

Area of the Study

The study was conducted in Northeast Nigeria, comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. The region has experienced security challenges, including insurgency, kidnapping, banditry, communal conflicts and other forms of criminal activities. These challenges make security an important consideration in the administration of higher education institutions. The study focused on six selected Federal Universities, with one university selected from each state, to examine the relationship between security vote strategy, community policing strategy and effective university management.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised 12,376 non-academic staff of six selected Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria. The population figures were obtained from the registries of the respective universities. Non-academic staff were considered appropriate respondents because they participate in administrative, financial, technical, maintenance, student-support and other institutional activities. Their experiences and observations were therefore relevant to assessing the implementation of security strategies and their relationship with effective university management.

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

A sample of 589 non-academic staff was selected from the population of 12,376. A multistage sampling procedure was adopted. First, purposive sampling was used to select one Federal University from each of the six states in Northeast Nigeria. Second, proportionate sampling was employed to allocate the sample to the selected universities according to their respective population sizes. Third, systematic sampling was used to select individual respondents from the staff lists of the participating institutions. The sampling interval for each university was determined by dividing its population by its allocated sample size. This procedure ensured that the sample reflected the distribution of non-academic staff across the six selected universities.

Instruments for Data Collection

Data were collected using two researcher-developed instruments: the Security Strategies Questionnaire (SSQ) and the Effective Universities Management Questionnaire (EUMQ).

The SSQ measured the security strategies examined in the study, particularly security vote strategy and community policing strategy. The security vote strategy items focused on the adequacy, allocation, timely release, accountability and utilisation of funds for university security operations. The community policing strategy items examined collaboration between university management and host communities, information sharing, stakeholder participation, cooperation with security agencies and joint efforts towards preventing and responding to security threats.

The EUMQ measured effective university management in terms of administrative efficiency, coordination of institutional activities, protection of university resources, continuity of operations, staff safety and the achievement of institutional objectives.

The questionnaires consisted of sections covering respondents' background information and items relating to the study variables. Responses were rated on a four-point scale: Very High Extent (4), High Extent (3), Low Extent (2) and Very Low Extent (1). The responses were used to assess the extent to which security vote strategy and community policing strategy related to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria.

Validity of the Instruments

The instruments were subjected to face and content validation by three experts from the Faculty of Education, Taraba State University, Jalingo. The experts comprised one specialist in Measurement and Evaluation and two specialists in Educational Administration and Planning. They examined the clarity,

relevance, adequacy and appropriateness of the questionnaire items in relation to the study objectives, research questions and hypotheses. Their observations and recommendations were incorporated into the final versions of the instruments before the pilot study and main data collection.

Reliability of the Instruments

The reliability of the instruments was established through a pilot study involving 50 non-academic staff of Taraba State University, Jalingo, who were excluded from the main study sample. The pilot data were analysed using Cronbach's alpha to determine the internal consistency of the questionnaire items. The instruments yielded an overall reliability coefficient of 0.97, indicating high internal consistency. Where available, separate reliability coefficients for the security vote strategy, community policing strategy and effective university management scales were also considered to establish the consistency of the items measuring each variable.

Method of Data Collection

The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the Department of Educational Foundations, Taraba State University, Jalingo, and sought permission from the appropriate authorities of the selected universities. Three trained research assistants assisted in administering and retrieving the questionnaires. Before administration, the purpose of the study was explained to the respondents, and appropriate instructions were provided for completing the instruments. Participation was voluntary, and respondents' confidentiality was maintained.

A total of 589 questionnaires were administered, of which 549 valid copies were retrieved, representing a response rate of 92.9%. The retrieved questionnaires were screened, coded and prepared for statistical analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the two research questions, while simple linear regression was employed to test the corresponding null hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance.

The analyses were conducted as follows:

1. Research Question One examined the extent to which security vote strategy relates to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria.

2. Research Question Two examined the extent to which community policing strategy relates to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria.

For each hypothesis, the regression coefficient (\(R\)), coefficient of determination (\(R^2\)), regression coefficient, test statistic and significance probability were examined. The coefficient of determination indicated the proportion of variation in effective university management statistically accounted for by each security strategy in the respective regression model.

The decision rule was that where the p-value was less than 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected. Where the p-value was equal to or greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis was not rejected. The findings were interpreted in line with the two objectives of the study, and conclusions were restricted to the statistical relationships established by the analyses rather than claims of causation.

Results

The results of the data analysis are presented according to the two research questions and the corresponding two null hypotheses that guided the study. The research questions were answered using descriptive statistics, specifically mean and standard deviation, while the null hypotheses were tested using simple linear regression at the 0.05 level of significance.

The analysis focused on the two objectives of the study: determining the extent to which security vote strategy relates to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria, and examining the extent to which community policing strategy relates to effective management of Federal Universities in the region.

Responses were measured on a four-point rating scale: Very High Extent (4), High Extent (3), Low Extent (2) and Very Low Extent (1). A mean score of 2.50 and above was interpreted as High Extent (HE), while a mean score below 2.50 was interpreted as Low Extent (LE).

For the hypotheses, the decision rule was to reject the null hypothesis where the p-value was less than 0.05. Where the p-value was equal to or greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis was not rejected. The findings are presented according to each research question and its corresponding hypothesis.

Table 1. Analysis of Administered Questionnaire

S/N	Administered Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
1	Returned SSQ/EUMQ	549	92.9%
2	Unreturned SSQ/EUMQ	40	7.1%
4	Total	589	100%%

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 shows that 589 copies of the questionnaire were administered, out of this number,549 questionnaires were properly completed and returned, representing a response rate of 92.9%. Meanwhile, 40 questionnaires were not returned, accounting for 7.1% of the total sampled [13]. Therefore, response rate obtained is well above 70% benchmark generally considered adequate for survey research, and it is therefore judged sufficient for the analysis that follows.

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question 1:

To what extent does security vote strategy relate to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria?

Table 2. Mean and Standard Deviation of Responses on Security Vote Strategy

Item	Statement	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Adequate funding is allocated for campus security operations.	549	2.84	1.051	HE
2	Security-related projects are prioritized in the university's annual budget.	549	2.87	0.849	HE
3	There is transparency in the disbursement of security funds.	549	2.86	0.873	HE
4	Security funding covers both physical infrastructure and personnel needs.	549	2.92	0.919	HE
5	Emergency funds are available for unforeseen security issues.	549	2.79	0.967	HE
6	Financial support from external bodies enhances	549	2.89	0.869	HE

Item	Statement	N	Mean	SD	Remark
	campus security.				
7	Security upgrades are frequently delayed due to funding constraints.	549	2.91	0.814	HE
8	There is a periodic review of the security budget based on emerging threats.	549	2.87	0.897	HE
9	Budget allocations match the scale of security challenges faced.	549	2.82	1.051	HE
10	Security funding influences the effectiveness of implemented strategies.	549	2.86	0.887	HE
	Grand Mean	**549**	**2.86**	**0.918**	**HE**

Source: Field Survey

Note. N = number of respondents; SD = standard deviation; HE = High Extent (mean ≥ 2.50); LE = Low Extent (mean < 2.50).

Table 2 shows that the grand mean for security vote strategy is 2.86 (SD = 0.918), which is above the criterion mean of 2.50. This indicates that, on the whole, respondents rated security vote strategy as being applied to a High Extent in the management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria. The item with the highest mean rating was "Security funding covers both physical infrastructure and personnel needs." (M = 2.92, SD = 0.919), while the item with the lowest mean rating was "Emergency funds are available for unforeseen security issues." (M = 2.79, SD = 0.967).

Research Question 2:

To what extent does community policing strategy relate to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria?

Table 3. Mean and Standard Deviation of Responses on Community Policing Strategy

Item	Statement	N	Mean	SD	Remark
11	Local vigilante groups are involved in campus security operations.	549	2.89	0.849	HE
12	Community leaders are consulted in major security decisions.	549	2.97	0.914	HE
13	There is a clear communication channel between the university and local communities.	549	2.79	0.979	HE
14	Joint patrols are conducted with local security stakeholders.	549	2.84	0.874	HE
15	Community members are sensitized about their role in campus safety.	549	2.91	0.845	HE
16	University hosts regular security forums involving stakeholders.	549	2.83	0.844	HE
17	Community support enhances early threat detection.	549	2.82	0.858	HE
18	There is mutual trust between university security and surrounding communities.	549	2.80	0.860	HE
19	Stakeholders provide intelligence for crime prevention.	549	2.45	0.998	LE
20	Collaboration with community members reduces campus crime rates.	549	2.69	0.800	HE
	Grand Mean	**549**	**2.80**	**0.882**	**HE**

Source: Field Survey

Note. N = number of respondents; SD = standard deviation; HE = High Extent (mean ≥ 2.50); LE = Low Extent (mean < 2.50).

Table 3 shows that the grand mean for community policing strategy is 2.80 (SD = 0.882), which is above the criterion mean of 2.50. This indicates that, on the whole, respondents rated community policing strategy as being applied to a High Extent in the management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria. The item with the highest mean rating was "Community leaders are consulted in major security decisions." (M = 2.97, SD = 0.914), while the item with the lowest mean rating was "Stakeholders provide intelligence for crime prevention." (M = 2.45, SD = 0.998), and item 39 is rated below the criterion mean.

Test of Null Hypotheses

Nine null hypotheses were tested using regression analysis at the 0.05 level of significance, relating each of the Nine security strategy clusters to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria

H_o1: There is no significant relationship between security vote strategy and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria.

Table 4. Regression Analysis of Security Vote Strategy and Effective Management

Model	R	R^2	Adj. R^2	F	df	B	β	t	p
Security vote strategy	.935	.874	.874	3787.491	1, 547	1.036	.935	61.543	< .001

Dependent variable = Effective Management of Federal Universities.

The result demonstrates a very strong positive relationship between security vote strategy and effective management. The model produced R = .935 and R^2 = .874, showing that security vote strategy accounted for 87.4% of the variance in effective management. The regression coefficient was positive and statistically significant (B = 1.036, β = .935, t = 61.543, p < .001). Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected. The finding indicates a statistically significant positive relationship between security vote strategy and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria.

H_o2: There is no significant relationship between community policing strategy and effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria.

Table 5. Regression Analysis of Community Policing Strategy and Effective Management

Model	R	R^2	Adj. R^2	F	df	B	β	t	p
Community policing strategy	.940	.883	.883	4133.75	1, 547	1.042	.940	64.294	< .001

Dependent variable = Effective Management of Federal Universities.

The analysis indicates a very strong positive relationship between community policing strategy and effective management. The model yielded R = .940 and R^2 = .883, indicating that 88.3% of the variance in effective management was explained by community policing strategy. The regression coefficient was positive and statistically significant (B = 1.042, β = .940, t = 64.294, p < .001). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. The result indicates that community policing strategy has a statistically significant positive relationship with effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria.

Discussion

Finding on the relationship between security vote strategy and effective management of Federal Universities revealed that security vote strategy had a very strong positive and statistically significant relationship with effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria. This implies that adequate allocation of financial resources for security significantly enhances effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria. The finding agrees with Uzoigwe, Luke, and Chikezie that sustainable funding is essential for maintaining effective security architecture in Nigerian universities [14]. The finding concurs with Olumoyo that adequate financial investment in campus security significantly improved institutional stability and staff performance. The finding collaborates with Abana, Akpam, and Agabi that effective security management depends largely on adequate funding for security facilities and personnel. The finding also agrees with Adebayo that inadequate funding remains one of the greatest challenges confronting institutional security management in tertiary institutions. The finding further agrees with Adeola that effective security management cannot be achieved without adequate financial resources for personnel training, surveillance equipment, and emergency preparedness.

Security vote strategy is considered indispensable because security operations require continuous funding for personnel salaries, procurement of equipment, maintenance of surveillance facilities, emergency logistics, and intelligence operations. Universities operating in regions experiencing insecurity require predictable and adequate security funding to sustain security operations. The significant relationship established in this study therefore suggests that institutions with adequate security votes are more capable of providing effective security services, thereby improving institutional management.

Finding on the relationship between community policing strategy and effective management of Federal Universities revealed that community policing strategy had a very strong positive and statistically significant relationship with effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast, Nigeria. This implies that collaboration between universities, host communities, security agencies, and other stakeholders significantly contributes to effective university management. The finding agrees with the Community Oriented Policing Services that collaborative partnerships between educational institutions and host communities improve campus security. The finding concurs with Welsh, Farrington, and Taheri that community collaboration significantly strengthens crime prevention and emergency response. The finding collaborates with Adekoke that effective communication and collaboration among institutional stakeholders improve security management [15]. The finding also agrees with Ogundele that community participation enhances institutional security through collective responsibility. The finding further agrees with Akpan that community engagement constitutes one of the best practices for effective campus security management.

Community policing strategy remains an essential security approach because most security threats originate from the surrounding environment. Strong collaboration between universities and host communities facilitates intelligence gathering, early warning, information sharing, and rapid intervention whenever security threats emerge [16]. The significant relationship found in this study may therefore be attributed to the ability of community policing to strengthen trust, improve security coordination, and promote peaceful coexistence between universities and their host communities.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that security vote strategy and community policing strategy are significantly and positively related to effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria. Specifically, the findings established that security vote strategy had a very strong positive relationship with effective university management (\(R=.935, R^2=.874, p<.001\)), while community policing strategy also had a very strong positive relationship with effective university management (\(R=.940, R^2=.883, p<.001\)). These findings indicate that adequate security funding and effective collaboration between university management and host communities are important considerations in promoting institutional security and administrative effectiveness.

The study further concludes that adequate security funding can support the provision and maintenance of security infrastructure, personnel training, surveillance equipment, communication systems and emergency response facilities. Similarly, effective community policing can strengthen intelligence sharing, improve early warning, promote cooperation with security agencies and host communities, and support the prevention of security incidents. The study therefore concludes that effective management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria requires adequate and accountable security funding alongside sustained collaboration between university authorities, host communities and relevant security agencies.

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

The Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Education and the management of Federal Universities, should provide adequate and sustainable security votes for university security operations. The funds should be allocated according to identified security needs and used for personnel training, procurement and maintenance of security equipment, campus lighting, surveillance systems, communication facilities and emergency response services. Appropriate financial monitoring and accountability mechanisms should also be established to ensure the prudent utilisation of security funds. The management of Federal Universities in Northeast Nigeria should strengthen community policing through regular collaboration with host-community leaders, traditional rulers, residents, student representatives and relevant security agencies. This collaboration should include regular security meetings, intelligence sharing, community sensitisation, early-warning mechanisms and joint security assessments. These measures are expected to improve cooperation, facilitate the timely identification of security threats and support effective university management. The Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission should develop appropriate monitoring mechanisms to assess the implementation and effectiveness of security funding and community policing arrangements in Federal Universities. Such assessments should examine the adequacy and utilisation of security votes, the effectiveness of stakeholder collaboration and the contribution of these strategies to institutional safety and administrative operations. The findings from these assessments should guide improvements in security planning, resource allocation and university management practices.

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