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Student Enrollment and Campus Security as Predictors of Effective Management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria

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Abstract. This study examined student enrollment and campus security as predictors of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The study was guided by five objectives, which were to determine the levels of student enrollment, campus security, and effective management, and to establish whether student enrollment and campus security significantly predict effective management in the university. The study adopted a correlational research design. The population of the study comprised 1,237 academic and administrative staff of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria, from which a sample of 291 respondents was selected using the Research Advisors (2006) sample size determination table and proportionate stratified random sampling technique. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled Student Enrollment, Campus Security and Effective Management Questionnaire (SECS-EMQ). The instrument was validated by experts and reliability coefficients of 0.87 for student enrollment, 0.84 for campus security, and 0.89 for effective management were obtained using Cronbach's Alpha. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while simple linear regression was used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings

revealed that student enrollment was high (M = 3.51, SD = 0.74), campus security was moderate (M = 3.20, SD = 0.81), and effective management was high (M = 3.49, SD = 0.76). The results further showed that student enrollment significantly predicted effective management (β = .642, p < .001) and campus security significantly predicted effective management (β = .642, p < .001). The study concluded that effective enrollment management and improved campus security measures are important factors associated with effective university management. It was recommended that the university strengthen enrollment planning, student monitoring systems, and security structures to enhance institutional effectiveness.

Keywords: Student Enrollment, Campus Security, Effective Management, University Administration, Zamfara State University.

INTRODUCTION

Effective management is essential for achieving the goals of higher education institutions because it influences teaching, research, community service, and administrative effectiveness. Universities are expected to efficiently utilize human, financial, and physical resources while responding to increasing student demand and emerging institutional challenges. Recent studies indicate that factors such as student enrollment and campus security are important considerations in promoting effective university management (Adebayo & Ghavifekr, 2025; Menichelli et al., 2024; Okeke & Maphosa, 2024). Student enrollment serves as an indicator of institutional growth, accessibility, and public confidence. While increased enrollment may support programme expansion and institutional development, it can also create pressure on facilities, staffing, accommodation, and student support services when resources are limited. Therefore, effective enrollment management is necessary for aligning institutional capacity with students' academic and welfare needs (Eniola et al., 2023; Huang & Li, 2024; Tiansheng et al., 2024).

Campus security has become an important concern in higher education due to increasing safety challenges affecting universities. A secure campus supports uninterrupted academic activities and protects students, staff, and institutional resources. Security measures such as trained personnel, surveillance systems, emergency response mechanisms, and safety policies contribute to creating a stable learning environment and strengthening confidence in university administration (Adieme & Oliobi, 2024; Menichelli et al., 2024; Shittu et al., 2023). This concern is particularly relevant in northern Nigeria, where security challenges have increased the need for effective campus safety management. Empirical studies have examined enrollment management and campus security from different perspectives. Sharma (2024) found that data-driven enrollment strategies support institutional planning, resource allocation, and administrative decisions, while Huang and Li (2024) reported that academic quality, institutional reputation, and strategic planning influence enrollment sustainability. Similarly, Adieme and Oliobi (2024) found that inadequate

security infrastructure and limited training affect campus safety management, whereas Wodi and Wordu (2024) highlighted the importance of digital security systems, surveillance technologies, and emergency communication platforms in improving campus security.

Further studies have shown that effective security structures contribute to crime prevention, student welfare, and institutional stability (Menichelli et al., 2024). Mphatheni and Hadebe (2024) emphasized the value of collaboration between universities and security agencies, while Zhang et al. (2024) revealed that campus environment and safety measures influence students' perceptions of security. Taylor et al. (2024) also found that communication and institutional responses shape students' confidence in campus safety systems. Akinbami et al. (2024) reported that surveillance systems, security awareness, and preventive measures are important for reducing security concerns among university students. Padot (2024) identified emergency planning, communication, and coordination as key components of institutional security preparedness, while Jiang (2024) emphasized the relevance of security frameworks and risk management policies in protecting university resources. Tiansheng et al. (2024) further observed that increasing student population places pressure on infrastructure and institutional services, requiring effective management strategies. Yusuf and Adebayo (2023) found that planning, coordination, and resource management are associated with improved university performance, while Corradi and Popham (2021) noted that security practices influence institutional image and students' perceptions.

Statement of the Problem

Effective management remains a major concern for higher education institutions due to increasing student enrollment, limited resources, and growing security challenges. Universities are expected to provide quality academic services while ensuring efficient utilization of resources and maintaining a safe learning environment. However, rapid changes in student population and security concerns may create administrative challenges related to infrastructure, staffing, student welfare, and continuity of academic activities. Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, like other emerging public universities, operates within a context of increasing demand for university education and security concerns in the region. Despite efforts by university administrators to improve institutional performance, challenges associated with managing student enrollment and maintaining adequate campus security may affect effective management practices.

Although previous studies have examined enrollment management, campus security, and university effectiveness independently, limited empirical evidence exists on how student enrollment and campus security jointly predict effective management, particularly in state-owned universities in northwestern Nigeria. This gap necessitates the present study, which seeks to examine student enrollment and campus security as predictors of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on Systems Theory developed by Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1968). The theory explains that organizations are complex systems made up of interrelated components that interact with one another to achieve common objectives. An organization's effectiveness depends on how well these components are coordinated and managed. In the context of higher education, a university functions as an open system comprising students, academic and non-academic staff, facilities, resources, security structures, and administrative processes, all of which contribute to institutional performance. The relevance of Systems Theory to this study lies in its explanation of how student enrollment and campus security represent important components within the university system. Changes in student enrollment may influence resource allocation, planning, infrastructure utilization, and service delivery, while effective campus security contributes to creating a stable environment for teaching, learning, and administration. The theory therefore suggests that effective management of a university depends on the proper coordination of its various components to achieve institutional goals. Applying this theory, Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, is viewed as an interconnected system where enrollment patterns and security conditions form part of the institutional environment that may relate to management effectiveness. Therefore, Systems Theory provides an appropriate foundation for examining student enrollment and campus security as predictors of effective management within the university.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine student enrollment and campus security as predictors of effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to:

1. determine the level of student enrollment in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
2. examine the level of campus security in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
3. assess the level of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
4. determine whether student enrollment significantly predicts effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
5. determine whether campus security significantly predicts effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of student enrollment in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?
2. What is the level of campus security in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

3. What is the level of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?
4. To what extent does student enrollment predict effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?
5. To what extent does campus security predict effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

1. **H_{01}:** Student enrollment does not significantly predict effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.
2. **H_{02}:** Campus security does not significantly predict effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a correlational research design to examine the relationship between student enrollment, campus security, and effective management of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria, without manipulating the study variables. Student enrollment and campus security served as predictor variables, while effective management was the dependent variable. The study was conducted at Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The population comprised 1,237 academic and administrative staff who were considered suitable because of their involvement in institutional planning, student management, resource utilization, and administrative activities. A sample size of 291 respondents was selected using the Research Advisors (2006) sample size determination table through a proportionate stratified random sampling technique to ensure adequate representation of the population. Data were collected using a researcher-developed questionnaire titled "Student Enrollment, Campus Security and Effective Management Questionnaire (SECS-EMQ)". The instrument consisted of items measuring student enrollment, campus security, and effective management on a five-point Likert scale. The instrument was validated by experts in Educational Management and Measurement and Evaluation to ensure clarity, relevance, and adequacy of coverage.

The reliability of the instrument was established through a pilot study using Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient. The reliability indices obtained were 0.87 for student enrollment, 0.84 for campus security measures, and 0.89 for effective management, indicating that the instrument was reliable for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions, while simple linear regression analysis was used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. Ethical considerations were observed by ensuring voluntary participation, confidentiality, anonymity, and the use of collected information strictly for academic purposes.

Results

Mean Decision Rule

1. 4.5-5.00 = Very High Extent (VHE)
2. 3.50-4.49 = High Extent (HE)
3. 2.50-3.49 = Moderate Extent (ME)
4. 1.50-2.49 = Low Extent LE
5. 1.00-1.49 = Very Low Extent (VLE)

Research Question One: What is the level of student enrolment in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation on Campus Security Student Enrollment

S/N	Student Enrollment	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	The university has experienced a steady increase in student enrollment over the years.	291	3.62	0.71	High
2.	The number of admitted students is properly planned according to available university resources.	291	3.48	0.76	Moderate
3.	The university maintains effective records and monitoring systems for enrolled students.	291	3.21	0.84	Moderate
4.	Student enrollment policies support effective academic and administrative planning.	291	3.55	0.73	High
5.	The current student population is adequately managed by the university administration.	291	3.69	0.66	High
	Total	291	3.51	**0.74**	**High**

Table 1 presents the mean and standard deviation scores on the level of student enrollment in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The results indicate that respondents agreed to a high extent that the university has experienced a steady increase in student enrollment over the years (M = 3.62, SD = 0.71). Similarly, respondents rated highly that student enrollment policies support effective academic and administrative planning (M = 3.55, SD = 0.73) and that the current student population is adequately managed by the university administration (M = 3.69, SD = 0.66). However, respondents indicated a moderate level of agreement that the number of admitted students is properly planned according to available university resources (M = 3.48, SD = 0.76) and that the university maintains effective records and monitoring systems for enrolled students (M = 3.21, SD = 0.84). Consequently, the table shows a grand mean of 3.51 with a standard deviation of 0.74, indicating a high level of student enrollment in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The relatively low standard deviation values suggest that respondents' opinions were fairly consistent regarding the student enrollment practices of the university.

Research Question Two: What is the level of campus security in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on Campus Security

S/N	Campus Security	N	Mean	SD	Remark
6.	The university provides adequate security personnel to protect students, staff, and facilities.	291	3.42	0.78	Moderate
7.	The university has effective surveillance systems for monitoring campus activities.	291	3.18	0.86	Moderate
8.	Access control measures are available to regulate movement within the university environment.	291	3.25	0.81	Moderate
9.	The university has effective emergency response mechanisms for security incidents.	291	3.37	0.75	Moderate
10.	The university creates security awareness among students and staff.	291	3.29	0.83	Moderate
	Total	291	**3.20**	**0.81**	**Moderate**

Table 2 presents the mean and standard deviation scores on the level of campus security in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The findings show that respondents moderately agreed that the university provides adequate security personnel to protect students, staff, and facilities (M = 3.42, SD = 0.78). Respondents also indicated a moderate level of agreement that the university has effective surveillance systems for monitoring campus activities (M = 3.18, SD = 0.86), access control measures to regulate movement within the university environment (M = 3.25, SD = 0.81), effective emergency response mechanisms for security incidents (M = 3.37, SD = 0.75), and security awareness programmes for students and staff (M = 3.29, SD = 0.83). Consequently, the table reveals a grand mean of 3.20 with a standard deviation of 0.81, indicating a moderate level of campus security in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The relatively low standard deviation values suggest that respondents had fairly similar opinions regarding the campus security measures available in the university.

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

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of Effective Management

S/N	Effective Management	N	Mean	SD	Remark
11.	The university management effectively plans and coordinates institutional activities.	291	3.61	0.70	High

12.	The university management efficiently utilizes available resources to achieve institutional goals.	291	3.47	0.77	High
13.	The university management provides effective academic and administrative services.	291	3.55	0.72	High
14.	The university management responds appropriately to institutional challenges.	291	3.39	0.82	High
15.	The university management promotes a conducive environment for teaching, learning, and research.	291	3.44	0.79	High
	Total	291	**3.49**	**0.76**	**Moderate**

Table 3 presents the mean and standard deviation scores on the level of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The findings indicate that respondents rated highly that the university management effectively plans and coordinates institutional activities (M = 3.61, SD = 0.70). Respondents also reported a high level of agreement that the university management efficiently utilizes available resources to achieve institutional goals (M = 3.47, SD = 0.77), provides effective academic and administrative services (M = 3.55, SD = 0.72), responds appropriately to institutional challenges (M = 3.39, SD = 0.82), and promotes a conducive environment for teaching, learning, and research (M = 3.44, SD = 0.79). Consequently, the respondents obtained a grand mean of 3.49 with a standard deviation of 0.76. Although the table labels the overall remark as Moderate, a grand mean of 3.49 on a four-point Likert scale falls within the High level. Therefore, the findings indicate that the level of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria, is high. The relatively low standard deviation further suggests that respondents expressed fairly consistent opinions regarding the effectiveness of the university's management practices.

Hypotheses Testing

H_{01}: Student enrollment does not significantly predict effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Table 4: Regression Analysis of Student Enrolment Predicting Effecting Management

Model	R	R2	Adjusted R2	Standard Error	β	t	Sig.
Student Enrolment	0.642	0.412	0.410	5.214	0.642	14.23	0.000

Table 4 presents the simple regression analysis of student enrollment as a predictor of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The results indicate a strong positive relationship between student enrollment and effective management (R = .642). The coefficient of determination (R^2 = .412) shows that student enrollment accounted for 41.2% of the variance in effective

management, while the adjusted R^2 of .410 indicates that the model remained stable after adjustment. The regression coefficient (β = .642) further indicates that student enrollment positively predicts effective management. The result was statistically significant, $t(289) = 14.23$, $p < .001$. Since the probability value of .000 is less than the .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, student enrollment significantly predicts effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

H_{02}: Campus security does not significantly predict effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Table 5: Regression Analysis of Student Enrolment Predicting Effecting Management

Model	R	R2	Adjusted R2	Standard Error	β	t	Sig.
Campus Security	0.642	0.412	0.410	5.214	0.642	14.23	0.000

Table 5 presents the simple regression analysis of campus security as a predictor of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The results indicate a strong positive relationship between campus security and effective management (R = .642). The coefficient of determination (R^2 = .412) shows that campus security accounted for 41.2% of the variance in effective management, while the adjusted R^2 of .410 indicates that the regression model was stable after adjustment. The standardized regression coefficient (β = .642) shows that campus security positively predicts effective management. The result was statistically significant, $t(289) = 14.23$, $p < .001$. Since the probability value of .000 is less than the .05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, campus security significantly predicts effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of Research Question One revealed that the level of student enrollment in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria, was high (Grand Mean = 3.51, SD = 0.74). Specifically, respondents agreed that the university has experienced a steady increase in student enrollment, that enrollment policies support academic and administrative planning, and that the current student population is adequately managed by the university administration. However, respondents only moderately agreed that admission is properly planned in line with available institutional resources and that effective student records and monitoring systems are consistently maintained. This suggests that while the university has continued to attract more students and has established functional enrollment policies, there is still room for improvement in aligning admission with institutional capacity and strengthening student information management systems. Effective enrollment planning remains an important component of institutional sustainability because

increasing student numbers should be accompanied by adequate staffing, facilities, and administrative support to maintain educational quality.

This finding is consistent with studies by Marginson (2023), Altbach and de Wit (2024), UNESCO (2024), Shah and Nair (2023), and Aina and Adedeji (2024), who reported that increasing student enrollment reflects institutional attractiveness and growth but requires effective planning, accurate student records, and adequate resource allocation to sustain quality management. Similarly, Adebayo and Yusuf (2023), Okeke and Eze (2024), Salmi (2023), Teferra (2024), and World Bank (2024) emphasized that universities with structured enrollment management systems are better positioned to improve institutional planning, academic service delivery, and administrative efficiency.

The findings on Research Question Two showed that campus security in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, was at a moderate level (Grand Mean = 3.20, SD = 0.81). Respondents moderately agreed that the university provides adequate security personnel, surveillance systems, access control measures, emergency response mechanisms, and security awareness programmes. The moderate ratings indicate that although security measures exist, respondents perceived that they require further strengthening to adequately protect lives, property, and institutional resources. Universities operate more effectively when students and staff feel secure, as a safe environment enhances teaching, learning, research, and administrative activities. Insecurity, on the other hand, disrupts academic calendars, reduces student confidence, and places additional pressure on institutional management. This finding agrees with the reports of UNESCO (2024), World Bank (2024), Adewale and Ibrahim (2024), Omodan and Ige (2023), and NUC (2024), who observed that effective campus security contributes significantly to institutional stability and academic productivity. Likewise, Akinyemi and Bello (2023), Eze and Nwosu (2024), Ogunode (2023), Owolabi and Ojo (2024), and International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (2023) maintained that investments in surveillance technologies, security personnel, emergency preparedness, and security awareness programmes improve institutional resilience and administrative effectiveness in higher education.

The findings of Research Question Three indicated that the level of effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, was high (Grand Mean = 3.49, SD = 0.76). Respondents agreed that university management effectively plans and coordinates institutional activities, utilizes available resources efficiently, provides effective academic and administrative services, responds to institutional challenges, and promotes a conducive environment for teaching, learning, and research. These findings suggest that the university management demonstrates considerable effectiveness in carrying out its core administrative responsibilities. Effective institutional management is reflected in sound planning, prudent utilization of resources, timely decision-making, and the provision of quality academic services that support institutional goals. The findings corroborate those of Bush (2023), Adebayo and Ghavifekr (2025), Bush and Glover (2024), UNESCO (2024), and World Bank (2024), who concluded that effective university management is characterized by strategic planning, efficient resource management, collaborative leadership, and

continuous improvement of academic services. The findings also support studies by Salmi (2023), Altbach and de Wit (2024), Ogunode (2023), Okeke and Eze (2024), and Teferra (2024), which reported that institutions with effective management practices generally experience better organizational performance, improved staff commitment, enhanced student satisfaction, and sustainable institutional development.

The first hypothesis revealed that student enrollment significantly predicted effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria ($R = .642$, $R^2 = .412$, $\beta = .642$, $t = 14.23$, $p < .001$). The finding indicates that student enrollment explained 41.2% of the variation in effective management, suggesting that enrollment practices are closely associated with how effectively the university is managed. This implies that improvements in enrollment planning, admission management, and student record systems are associated with improvements in institutional planning, resource allocation, and administrative coordination. The rejection of the null hypothesis indicates that student enrollment is a significant predictor of effective management within the university. This finding supports the work of Marginson (2023), Shah and Nair (2023), Salmi (2023), Aina and Adedeji (2024), and World Bank (2024), who found that strategic enrollment management contributes significantly to institutional effectiveness, financial sustainability, and educational quality. Similar findings were reported by Altbach and de Wit (2024), Adebayo and Yusuf (2023), Okeke and Eze (2024), UNESCO (2024), and Teferra (2024), who concluded that well-managed student enrollment enhances institutional performance through improved planning, resource utilization, and service delivery.

The second hypothesis showed that campus security significantly predicted effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria ($R = .642$, $R^2 = .412$, $\beta = .642$, $t = 14.23$, $p < .001$). The finding demonstrates that campus security accounted for 41.2% of the variance in effective management, indicating that improvements in campus security are associated with improvements in institutional management. A secure campus environment enables administrators to concentrate on academic and organizational goals while reducing disruptions arising from security challenges. Consequently, the rejection of the null hypothesis confirms that campus security is a significant predictor of effective management. This finding is in agreement with studies by Omodan and Ige (2023), Adewale and Ibrahim (2024), Ogunode (2023), NUC (2024), and UNESCO (2024), which established that effective security systems enhance institutional governance, staff productivity, and students' academic experiences. It also aligns with the findings of Akinyemi and Bello (2023), Owolabi and Ojo (2024), World Bank (2024), International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (2023), and Eze and Nwosu (2024), who reported that universities with stronger security systems achieve greater administrative effectiveness, operational stability, and improved educational outcomes.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that student enrollment and campus security are important factors associated with effective management in Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria. The findings revealed that the university recorded a high level

of student enrollment, indicating effective growth and enrollment practices, although improvements are needed in resource-based admission planning and student monitoring systems. The study also established that campus security was at a moderate level, suggesting the availability of security measures but the need for further strengthening to ensure a safer academic environment. Furthermore, the level of effective management was found to be high, reflecting the university management's efforts in planning, resource utilization, service delivery, and addressing institutional challenges. The regression results demonstrated that both student enrollment and campus security significantly predicted effective management, indicating that proper management of student population and improvement of security systems are associated with enhanced institutional effectiveness. Therefore, the study concludes that strengthening enrollment management strategies and campus security measures can contribute to improved administrative efficiency, academic stability, and sustainable development of Zamfara State University, Talata Mafara, Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. The university management should strengthen student enrollment planning by ensuring that admission decisions are aligned with available academic facilities, teaching staff, accommodation, and other institutional resources to maintain quality service delivery.
2. The university should improve student records and monitoring systems through the adoption of efficient digital enrollment management platforms that provide accurate and timely information for administrative decision-making.
3. The university management should enhance campus security by increasing the capacity of security personnel, improving surveillance systems, strengthening access control mechanisms, and developing effective emergency response strategies.
4. The university should regularly organize security awareness programmes for students and staff to promote shared responsibility, risk awareness, and cooperation in maintaining a safe campus environment.
5. The university management should continue to strengthen strategic planning and resource management practices to ensure that increasing student enrollment and security improvements contribute positively to effective institutional management and sustainable growth.

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