

## Functional Office Technology and Management Programme and Security Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century World of Work in Ekiti State

Dada Ronke Temitope<sup>1</sup>, & Omidiji, Samuel Ajetomobi<sup>2</sup>

Office Technology & Management Department

Federal Polytechnic, Ado

Temitoperonke6@gmail.com/Omidijisamuel17@gmail.com

+2348038355170

### **Abstract**

*The study investigated functional office technology and management programme and security challenges in 21<sup>st</sup> century world of work in Ekiti State. The descriptive research design was adopted for the study. Three research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. The population of the study comprised 360 students from the selected four tertiary institutions in Ekiti State. Purposive sampling techniques was adopted to select 186 respondents from the final year students drawn from the four tertiary institutions in Ekiti State using Krejccie and Morgan table. The instrument used for data collection was a 20item questionnaire. The instruments were validated by three experts. The instrument reliability was ensured using Cronbach Alpha formula which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.76. Data collected through the administration of questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation for the research questions. Pearson Product Moment correlation was used to test the formulated hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that, Office Technology and Management programme, if properly delivered can play a vital role in reducing youth restiveness and agitations. The findings also showed that requisite employability skills embedded in OTM programme that can create wealth for the teaming youths and thereby reducing security challenges in Nigeria. It was concluded that OTM lecturers should effectively inculcate digital skills to the OTM students for self-reliance. Thus, it is recommended amongst others that government and other relevant stake holders should improve the funding of OTM programme and empower its graduates to set up their businesses.*

**Keywords:** Functional, Office Technology and Management, Security, Youth Restiveness and Youth Agitations.

### **Introduction**

The level of insecurity in the global world of work and in Nigeria has reached an alarming rate and where technocrats need to brainstorm on the next line of action in order to nip the problem in the bud. Agbakiso (2019) remarked that the major problem hindering the progress and development of Nigeria as a developing country

is insecurity, Insecurity has created a vacuum that has generated a threat to the entire country. Its citizens and the social and economic development of the nation at large. The unprecedented level of incessant insecurity witnessed in the country, which ranges from banditries, kidnaping, armed robbery, ethnic militia, cultism, and youth agitation stemmed from youth restiveness and unemployment. These social vices has cost government huge amounts of money and time to address. Despite all the measures and energy put into motion to address the menace of social vices, few successes have been recorded because many lives were lost and properties destroyed.

The daily Punch 23th of October, 2022 reported that no fewer than 53,418 Nigerians lost their lives to social vices between May 19 and October 15 2022. Research portal 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 reported that calculated cases of kidnapping of schoolchildren rose by 361 percent. Citizens can no longer sleep and close their eyes because of the fear of insecurity. Agbakiso (2019) noted that Nigerian citizens are getting more insecure on a daily basis. Those who engage in the social menace are the youths. Many youths are involved in the crimes and they are very ruthless. Destroyers are sophisticated with dangerous weapons and very desperate in their actions to survive.

Okoli (2023) reported that insecurity has reached its apex in Nigeria as youth are coming up with a series of agitations on a daily basis, especially through the media. Those in the eastern parts and northern parts embraced and engaged in abductions, rape, bombing, and militancy activities. Chukwuemeka (2020) averred that the concept of insecurity is described as total absence of life safety, property safety, and work safety. Okoli and Obi (2022) opined that the state of insecurity is for the citizen to be open to threats, anxiety, danger, and risks. The causes of the insecurity were attributed to the social vices such as terrorism, poor government policies, corruption in the boarder porousness, ethnic bigotry, and unemployment. The aftermath effect of these social vices has generated insecurity challenges in the country.

Youth restiveness among Nigerian youths is now a threat to the socio-economic and national development of the country. Okoli (2020) concluded that the violent crimes perpetrated by the youths were caused by their restiveness. It has also generated conflict among the ethnic groups and tribes. This has hindered the advancement and development of the Nigerian economic and political system. Unemployment has been attributed to the underdevelopment of Nigeria. This has manifested in the way and manners in which our able body leaves the country to seek for job across the globe. The poverty rate in Nigeria has reached an alarming rate. Citizens can no longer earn their livings, and the majority of the workers in Nigerian receive salaries below the global best standards and practices. The geometric advancement in unemployment rate has plunged Nigeria into a country where the highest number of extremely poor people reside. This has plunged our youths to embracing social vices as their last resort. An idle hand is Satan's workshop. The effect of social vices engaged by the youths has brought insecurity to the nation.

Agbakiso (2019) identified the effects of social vices in Nigeria to include loss of lives and property, displacement of people into another settlement, dispute and hostility among Nigerians, anxiety, panicking, religion crises, fears, Child abuse, rapes, killing for rituals, and hungers. Until then, these social vices and the insecurity challenge that hindered the progress of the nation can be addressed if the youth are gainfully engaged or if the youth are motivated to set up their own businesses and create wealth for the nation.

Over the years, technological development in all aspects of human endeavour has led to far-reaching changes in the way by which organization operate. Improvements and advancements in technology have assisted in the emergence of new organizational settings work practices, and training methods globally. In recent years, teaching and learning methods have changed in educational institutions in general from conventional and traditional methods to virtual or ICT oriented in office technology and management programme. Change is the only constant factor in life. This is manifested in the 21<sup>st</sup> century business environment. The 21<sup>st</sup> century working environment is characterized with cut-throat competition. Education is seen as a document of excellence in preparing citizens for effective roles in society. One form of educational programme that equips its recipients with the requisite skills and competencies to adapt to the changing world of work is office technology and management. Zakka and Wetnwan (2018) averred that office technology and management is a comprehensive term referring to those aspects of the educational process involving, in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related science and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding, and knowledge relating to occupation in various sectors of economic and social life. The programme is designed to equip students with the competencies required to work in a modern office environment which is information and communication technology-driven.

Omidiji (2019) averred that, the OTM programme is a means to an end, it can transfer skills into wealth. Among the requisite skills in the OTM programme that can be inculcated in the students to address their restiveness, agitations, unemployment, and poverty among them include; digital technological skills, desktop publishing skills, data processing skills, database management skills, web design skills and human relations skills. These skills can be acquired in OTM programme for job opportunities in the OTM that allow its graduates to be self-reliance graduates of Office Technology and Management are the OTM graduating students who can engage themselves in the establishment of business centres, having laptops for the production of documents, and emails; browsing, typing, photocopying, and cybercafé centers. Graduates of OTM can establish secretarial institutes where typists, stenographers, and secretarial workers can be trained. Office technology and management graduates, who as part of reliant on self-skills can establish writing and publish books for people. OTM graduates, can also organize workshops and seminars for different categories of secretarial workers. They can also provide consultancy services for organizations in recruiting activities.

**Statement of the Problem**

Nigeria is endowed with both human and material resources that should attract investors both at home and abroad. The obstacle that hindered the country's development among its contemporaries in the world stemmed from the challenges posed by insecurity. The insecurity was promoted by the youth's restlessness and unproductiveness. This has contributed to the rise in insecurity in the country. It is worrisome that the insecurity level has gotten to the stage where the way out to address the issue is now a mirage. As the government advances, sophisticated measures to get the security challenges become a thing of the past and no longer feasible. As government and security chiefs have developed means to tackle the problem of insecurity in Nigeria through the procurement of arms, recruitment of more security personnel, and the allocation of funds to the security unit. However, observation revealed that the changes of insecurity persist in Nigeria as security personnel are killed at their base. Kidnapping on the highest, raping, and banditry surface from every nook and cranny of the country. The insecurity challenges may be a continuous phenomenon if government does not take a paradigm shift from a non-educational strategy to a technical approach to curbing the insecurity challenges bedeviling the nation. It is on this premises that this study tends to look at functional office technology and management programme as a panacea to the security challenges in Nigeria.

**Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of the study was to find out the role of functional office technology and management programme in solving security challenges in Nigeria. Specifically, this study sought to:

1. find out the level of insecurity challenges in Nigeria
2. ascertain how functional office technology and management programme can make the youth self-reliant and generally be self-reliant and be gainfully employable.
3. determine how functional office technology and management programme can be employed in reducing security challenges in Nigeria.

**Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What are the prevailing security challenges in Nigeria?
2. To what extent can functional office technology and management programme make the youth self-reliant and be gainfully employed?
3. Does functional office technology and management programme solve security challenges?

**Research Hypothesis**

There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female students on how functional office technology and management programme solve security challenges in Nigeria.

## Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The study sought the opinion of the respondents on how functional office technology and management programme can be used as a panacea to address security challenges in Nigeria. The population of the study was 360 OTM students from federal polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. The sample size of 186 were drawn adopting purposive sampling technique to select the final year students from the four tertiary institutions in Ekiti State. 50 students were selected from Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, 50 students were drawn from Federal University, Oye-Ekiti. 50 students were selected from Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti and 36 students was selected from Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State respectively.

The instrument used for data collection was a 20-item questionnaire validated by experts from the field of Business Education and Test and Measurement department. The internal consistency of the instrument was established through a pilot testing that was analysed using Cronbach's Alpha which yielded areliability coefficient of 0.76. The validated instrument titled "Questionnaire on Office Technology and Management programme and security challenges in Ekiti State. (QOTMPSC)" was adopted to elicit responses on the three research questions. The instrument was designed on a 4-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (DA), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The collected data were analyzed using Mean and Standard Deviation. The decision rule was taken on the ground that any mean of 2.50 and above is regarded as "agree" why any mean below 2.50 is regarded as "disagree". The null hypothesis formulated was tested using Pearson's correlation inferential tool.

## Results

The data collected in order to answer the research questions are presented in tables one to two below.

**Research Question 1:** What are the prevailing security challenges in Nigeria?

**Table 1:** Mean ratings and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the Prevailing Security Challenges in Nigeria?

S/N	ITEM	X	SD	REMARK
1	Banditry	3.75	0.40	Agree
2	Abduction	3.64	0.85	Agreed
3	Cultism	3.43	0.80	Agree
4	Militancy	3.55	0.89	Agree
5	Insurgency	3.64	0.85	Agree
6	Thuggery	3.69	0.75	Agree

7	Armed Robbery	3.55	0.89	Agreed
8	Unlawful Protest	3.58	0.81	Agreed
9	Herders men	3.74	0.84	Agreed
10	Agitations	3.55	0.90	Agreed

Source: Field survey, 2023

Ground Mean 3.61

Table 1 revealed that all the items identified are the prevailing security challenges in Nigeria. Their means ranged from 3.43 to 3.75. Thus, all the items raised such as banditry, abduction, cultism, militancy, insurgency, thuggery, armed robbers herders are the prevailing security challenges in Nigeria. This finding was corroborated by the report of Omidiji (2023) who reported that half-baked graduates engages in social vices such as banditry and Thuggery.

**Research Question 2:** To what extent can functional office technology and management programme make the youth self-reliant and be gainfully employed?

**Table 2: Functional Employability Skills embedded in OTM Programme for Self-Reliant**

S/N	ITEM	X	SD	REMARK
1.	Digital Skill promote online employment	1.55	0.64	NU
2.	Desktop Publishing skills reduces youth idleness	1.81	0.79	NU
3.	Data Management Skills reduces youth unemployment	1.61	0.79	NU
4.	Data processing reduces youth restiveness	1.47	0.69	NU
5.	Data Base Management skills reduce youth idleness	1.85	0.83	NU
6.	Human relation Skills reduces Social Vices	1.55	0.64	NU
7.	Web Design skills provide employment	1.11	0.31	NU
8.	Keyboarding Skills provide online job	1.23	0.42	NU
9.	Excel Skills enhances online opportunity	1.49	0.64	NU
10.	Career Development Skills enhance content marketing	1.47	0.69	NU

Source: Field survey, 2023

Ground Mean

1.51

Table 2 revealed that all the items raised on the employability skills in OTM programme provide self-reliant opportunities that help to reduce youth restiveness, as their means ranged from 1.11 to 1.85. Each of these means was lower than the cut-off point of 2.50, indicating that the ten (10) raised OTM skills can serve as a panacea for insecurity challenges in Nigeria.

**Research Question 3:** Does functional office technology and management programme solve security challenges



**Table 1: Mean ratings of Respondents on the OTM Skills as a Panacea for Security Challenges in Nigeria.**

S/N	ITEM	X	SD	REMARK
1.	Digital Skills reduces banditry	3.74	0.84	Agreed
2.	Data Base Skills reduces abduction	3.64	0.60	Agreed
3.	Web Design skills reduces Cultism	3.48	0.82	Agreed
4.	Content Marketing reduce Militancy	3.55	0.89	Agreed
5.	Digital Marketing reduce Insurgency	3.60	0.85	Agreed
6.	Online data marketing reduce Thuggery	3.61	0.85	Agreed
7.	Human Relation Skills reduce Armed Robbery	3.48	0.82	Agreed
8.	Desktop Publishing Skills reduce Unlawful Protest	3.55	0.89	Agreed
9.	Online job reduces Herders men activity	3.74	0.84	Agreed
10.	self-Reliant reduce Agitations	3.58	0.81	Agreed

Source: Field survey, 2023

Ground Mean 3.60

Table 3 revealed that all the items identified are the employability skills embedded in OTM programme that can address the insecurity challenges in Nigeria. They had their means ranged from 3.48 to 3.74. Thus, this showed that all the identified employability skills solve the security challenges in Nigeria. This finding was in consonance with the finding of Zakka(2018) who submitted that employability skills that domicile in OTM programme serves as a panacea for security challenges in Nigeria.

### Testing of Hypothesis

Table 4: Relationship between mean Responses of Male and Female on how Functional Office Technology and Management programmes solve Security Challenges

Variable	N	X	X <sup>2</sup>	X Y	Df	-cal	zFcal	z-crit	Remarks
Security Challenges	80	900	3 298						
				3480	78	0.05	-0.97	-5.85	1.95 Reject H <sub>0</sub>
OTM programme	80	793	3069						

Table 4 presents the result of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis between security challenges and functional OTM programme in Ekiti State tertiary institutions. The observed value of the correlation coefficient between the two variables was a negative strong correlation of -0.97. to establish the significance of

the correlation coefficient value. T-value was calculated, an index of -5.85 was obtained. The t-cal value (-5.85) with critical t-value of 1.95 at the level of significance of 0.05 with a degree freedom of 78 revealed that the relationship was significant. This showed that the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between security challenges and functional OTM programme was rejected.

### **Discussion of Results**

The findings of research question one revealed that the ten (10) items raised were identified as the prevailing security challenges in Nigeria. They had their means ranged from 3.48 to 3.74. Thus, they all agreed with the items raised as various types of social vices caused by insecurity in the country. The implication of this is that, Youth in Nigeria engages in social vices that hindered the development of the country and posed as threat to the lives and property of the citizens. This finding was in agreement with the findings of the study conducted by Nasiru (2023) who conducted a research on the rising insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Solution. The finding showed that banditry, kidnapping and rape was at the pick in Nigeria. It has hindered the progress of the country for years.

Findings on research question two showed that all the items raised on the extent of functionality of office technology and management programme for youth self-reliant and be gainfully employed. The findings of the study was in consonance with the findings of Omidiji (2019) on the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills acquisition in business education programme in tertiary institutions in Nigeria where the findings showed that requisite skills for self-reliant, employment generations and prepare youths for useful living with the society.

Findings on research question three revealed that functional office technology and management programme solve security challenges. The OTM programme is a weapon for sustainable development because entrepreneurship skills are domiciled in it, and it produces competent graduates that can transform skills into wealth and eventually reduce the rate of crime in the country. The finding was supported by Okoli (2023) who submitted that OTM programme has the capability to equip its graduate with requisite skills and competencies for self-reliance and creation of job.

Findings on the null hypothesis tested at 0.05 level of significance on the significance difference on security challenges and OTM programme indicated a significant negative relationship between security challenges and functional OTM programme. The implication of this finding is that an effectiveness and functional OTM programme reduces security challenges in Nigeria. This finding agrees with Omidiji (2018) who asserted that OTM skills reduces the security challenges in Nigeria.



## Conclusion

The study investigated how office technology and management programme could be harnessed as veritable tools to combat the security challenges and threats in Nigeria. Based on the findings of this study, it was deduced that there is a high rate of insecurity in Nigeria. It was also discovered that youth restiveness, agitations and unemployment are the major causes responsible for the security challenges. Thus, in order to combat insecurity in Nigeria, it is imperative to address the menace of youth restiveness agitations, and unemployment that metamorphosis into social vices and invariably pose a serious threats to the lives and property. Greater emphasis must be placed on office technology and management programme that will equip the youth with, requisite skills and competencies needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> global world of work that will make them employable and self-reliant. This will deny them the opportunity to engage in social vices.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations were drawn from the study:

1. Government should collaborate with non-government sectors to reduce the high prevailing security challenges through empowerment of the OTM graduates to set up their business.
2. Office Technology and Management students should abridge themselves to acquire the requisite skill embedded in OTM programme to be self-reliant after graduation.
3. Government and philanthropies should look inward in providing funds and grants to the OTM programme because it is capital intensives in order to produce a competent graduates that can create wealth for the country and solve the security challenges in Nigeria.
4. OTM students should be mentored in order to cultivate the mindset of establishing their own business through scholarship when they were on training in school.

## References

- Aina, M.A &Omidiji, S.A. (2019) Usage of E-learning for Improved Learning Outcome Among Business Education Students in Public Tertiary Institutions in Ekiti State. *International Journal of Research and Design in Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* 3(1), 164-170
- Agboola, B.G. (2019) Workforce Upskilling and Reskilling Revolution in European Labour Market: Lessons for Nigeria Entrepreneurs and Training Institutions. *International*

- Agbakosi, A.O, & Akande, O.A. (2019) Functional vocational and Technical Education: A Panacea to Security Challenges. *EKSU Journal of Education*. 9(1), 238-246
- Arkwandu, S.O & Asogwa, S.O.(2022) The Secretarial Profession: A Threatened Future *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 9(2) 242-247
- Chukwuemeka, F.U. (2020) Computer Skills Needed by Personal Secretaries in Private Limited Liability Companies in South Easter Nigeria. Unpublished Seminar paper.
- Enang, C. E. (2022) Emerging Technologies in Teaching and Learning of Business Education Programme in the New Normal in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 9(2), 64-71
- Ewetan, O.O and Urhie, E (2014) Insecurity and Socio-economic development in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development Studies*. 5(1) 40-63
- Ezeonwurie, O.A. (2022) Secretarial Profession in the Digital WorkPlace. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 9(2) 22-27
- Naziru, Z (2023) Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Solution. *Journal of studies in Social Science*. 9(4) 24-32
- Paul, V.S. (2022) Sustaining Teaching and Learning of Office Technology and Management Education in South-Eastern Nigeria Tertiary Institutions in the New Normal Era. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 9(2) 1-12
- Punch, (2022) Nigeria Daily New. Menace of Insecurity in the Country.
- Okoli, B.E. (2023) Digital Transformation of small And Medium Scale Entreprises in Anambra *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 10(2), 263-270
- Okoli, C. (2020), Adequacy of Funding for Skill Acquisition in Entrepreneurship Development in Tertiary Institutions in Enugu State. *International Journal of Science and Engineering*. 5(6), 115-120
- Okoli, B.E. (2021) Use of New Technologies in the Instructional Delivery of Business Education. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 13), 99-110

- Okoli, C.I. & Ikpat. N. H. (2022) Level of Application of virtual Learning Pedagogical Design by Business Educators in Teritary Institutions in Anambra State. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 9(2), 72-80
- Okoli, M.C., & Obi, O.W. (2022) Digital Skills Needed by Business Education Graduates for Global Comptiveness in Entrepreneurship in Ebonyi State. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education* 9(1), 225-230
- Omidiji, S.A. (2023), Identification of New Technology Skills Required By Lecturers of OTM for Instructional Delivery in Tertiary Institution in Ondo and Ekiti State. *The Scale Journal*. 2(1), 385-392.
- Toyin, O. (2022) Steer the Design and Use of Artificial Intelligence to Transform Teaching *Sabinet African Journal* 30(1), 101-112
- Rehman, F., Pir, S.S. & Habibullah, P (2021) Xllkogretim Online Elementary Education 20(5) 3186-3192
- Zakka, D.D., Bewaran, Y.S. & WEnwan, P.R. (2018) Revamping Nigeria's Receding Economy through Skill Acquisition in Office Technology and Management. *Nigerian Journal of Business Education*. 5(1), 203-212.