



## Application of School Surveillance and Students' Safety in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Rivers State

*Kenneth Amadi; Godfrey Nnadeze C; Inukan-Adebayo Rita Tamunodiepreye*

Rivers State University, Nigeria

### ABSTRACT

*This study investigated Teachers application of school surveillance and students' Safety in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. The purpose of the study was to examine the relationship between teachers' application of school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. Three research questions and three hypotheses were raised for the study. the study adopted the correlational design. The population of the study was 6,962 teachers from 302 public senior secondary schools in the three senatorial districts in Rivers State. The sample size was 360 teachers. The sample size was determined using Taro Yamene formula. The data were collected using two research instruments titled, Teachers' Application of surveillance Questionnaire and Students' Safety Questionnaire. The instrument were validated by three experts. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha method. The reliability coefficient was 0.78. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient to answer the research question while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study reveal that, there is significant relationship between active supervision, school surveillance and active listening and students' safety. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that school management should orient the teachers on the need for active supervision as it improves students' safety in public senior secondary schools. School management should orient the management teaching staff on importance of school surveillance because of its implication on students' safety in public senior secondary schools and government should always organize conferences for its teaching staff on active listening because of its importance to students' safety in public senior secondary schools.*

**Keyword:** active supervision, school surveillance, active listening

### INTRODUCTION

The word Supervision comprises two words, namely super, that is, superior or extra, and vision, that is, sight or perspective. The literal meaning of the term supervision is to oversee or to inspect the work of other persons. Thus, supervision refers to an act by which a teacher inspects or supervises the work of students, that is, whether they are working properly or not. Students' supervision is direction, guidance and control of students with a view to see that they are working according to plan and are keeping safe. Further, they are getting all possible help in accomplishing their task. Supervision involves motivating, guiding, inspecting, superintending, developing, coordinating and controlling the students. According to Vitiates as cited in Acharya (n.d.) Supervision refers to the direct and immediate guidance and control of students in the performance of their task. Three main functions of supervision in the school environment are to direct, guide and control students' actions with a view:

1. To see, they are working, according to plans, instructions and the time schedule,
2. To guide their activities if they are doing something inconsistent to instructions given and need help to accomplish their assigned task, and
3. To give them further instructions to get the work done, if necessary (Acharya n.d.).

Active supervision enables teachers to more effectively deliver feedback to students. By frequently interacting with students, they increase opportunities to build positive relationships, provide encouraging feedback for appropriate behavior, and more swiftly and consistently respond to inappropriate behavior. Teachers are to constantly scan the entire school environment looking for appropriate behavior, problem behavior, and dangerous activities, paying special attention to areas, activities, and groups where problems have occurred in the past. They can use the period of supervision to reinforce expectations by reminding students of rules and routines, prompt appropriate behavior, and deliver corrective consequences as needed (Gage, Haydon, Macsuga-Gage, Flowers & Erdy 2020).

School surveillance is the monitoring of behavior, many activities, or information for the purpose of information gathering, influencing, managing or directing. This can include observation from a distance through the means of electronic equipment, such as close-circuit television (CCTV), or interception of electronically transmitted information like internet traffic. It can also include simple technical methods, such as human intelligence gathering and posting interception. Schools watch students closely for a few key reasons: to keep students on task, for student and staff safety. In order to accomplish these goals, schools have supplemented traditional staff observations of students with a multitude of technologies, such as surveillance cameras, student internet use and device monitoring, and biometric scanners.

Internet monitoring is an example of school surveillance. It is difficult to overstate the internet's potential as an educational resource. Schools need ways to manage and create the learning experience, prevent bullying and harassment, promote safety, meet federal obligations such as protecting children from pornography, and more. Ensuring Student Safety Perhaps the most compelling impetus for school surveillance is the desire to keep students safe, not only online, but also in the physical school environment. Broad safety and security concerns are cited as chief reasons for many school surveillance techniques.

Another online area where student safety comes into play is sexting. Generally defined as "the sending of sexually explicit messages or images," sexting has increasingly become an issue in schools. A third safety reason for monitoring online behavior is to predict and avoid school violence. Unaccountable or unobserved space provides a window of opportunity for students engaging in activities contrary to their family norms or desires, thus creating additional vulnerabilities and opportunities for exposure to violent extremists or violent rhetoric. Students can be monitored through students' social media accounts, through the full content of the public post from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Vine, Ask.fm, YouTube, and Google (Tucker & Vance, 2016).

Active listening is a way of listening and responding to another person that improves mutual understanding. It is an important first step to defuse the situation and seek solutions to problems. Active listening is an important tool in managing conflicts. Listening is a two way process, both the teacher and student are expected to pay attention to what is being conveyed. Only then does effective communication take place. If there is effective communication in the classroom, than there is effective learning in the classroom.

Teachers are assumed to be parent-substitutes; this creates a high standard for the teachers' care. In supervising students, teachers serve in dual capacity. They are professionals, trained not simply to teach their subjects but to properly manage the educational environment (Gabrielle, 2022). Teachers are expected to take care to an extent to avert causing harm, regardless of whether the harm was caused by another student or as a result of the clumsiness of the students. Teachers are to ensure that their responsibilities towards their students are enhanced by their students' good health and increased attendance at school. However, this has not been the case, as teachers' inattention and negligence toward their students have been noted with dismay. This has led to the students falling victim to certain harm, some of it committed by fellow students, teachers, and members of the public or even the students themselves. Students have been on the receiving end due to an increase in teachers' lack of active supervision and surveillance towards students. This has led to injuries and deaths in the school environment (Chudi, 2017)

---

## Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to examine teachers' application of school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i. Determine the relationship between school active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary school in Rivers State.
- ii. Find out the relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary school in Rivers State.
- iii. Ascertain the relationship active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary school in Rivers State.

---

## Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- 1 What is the relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?
- 2 What is the relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?
- 3 What is the relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

## Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide this study at 0.05 level of significance:

- There is no significant relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.
- There is no significant relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.
- There is no significant relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

---

## Methodology

The study examine teachers' application of school surveillance an correlational design. The study area is Rivers State, which comprises three senatorial districts, namely Rivers East Senatorial District, Rivers West Senatorial District and Rivers South East Senat

orial Districts which consist of 23 Local Government Areas. The population of the study was 6,962 teachers consisting of 3581 male and 3381 female teachers from 302 public senior secondary schools in the 23 local government areas of Rivers State (Planning, Research and Statistics Department, Rivers State Senior Secondary Schools Board, Port Harcourt, Rivers State 2022). Multiple sampling techniques were used to select the sampling size. The instruments for data collection in this study are self designed questionnaire titled, Teachers' Awareness of Duty of Care Questionnaire (TADCQ) and

Students' Safety Questionnaire (SSQ) constructed by the researcher. To ensure the face and content validity of the instruments (TADCQ) and (SSQ), were submitted to the researcher's supervisor and examined by one expert in measurement and evaluation and two experts in Department of educational management, Rivers State University. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha method. The researcher in collaboration with two research assistance administered 360 copies of the questionnaires to the teachers. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation to answer the research question while t-transfusion was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypotheses of significance statistical difference were not rejected if the calculated t-value was less than the critical t-value and was rejected if the calculated t-value was more than the critical t-value.

## RESULTS

Research Question 1: What is the relationship between active supervision as teachers' duty of care and students' safety and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

**Table 4.1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State**

Variable	N	$\sum x$	$\sum y$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	r-cal	Remark
Active supervision(x)	360							
		16394	16632	578140	594469	584995	0.88	High Positive
Students' Safety (y)	360							

Source: Field survey, 2022

The analysis in Table 4.1 indicated that the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient value (r) was 0.88. This showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between active supervision and students' safety. This implies that an increase in active supervision leads to increase in students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Research Question 2: What is the relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

**Table 4.2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State**

Variable	N	$\sum x$	$\sum y$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	r-cal	Remark
School surveillance (x)	360							
		16251	16437	582099	594469	586807	0.84	High Positive
Students' Safety (y)	360							

Source: Field survey, 2022

The analysis in Table 4.2 indicated that the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient value (r) was 0.84. This showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between school surveillance and students' safety. This implies that an increase in school surveillance leads to increase in students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Research Question 3: What is the relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

**Table 4.3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State**

Variable	N	$\sum x$	$\sum y$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum y^2$	$\sum xy$	r-cal	Remark
Active Listening (x)	360							
		16194	16437	578140	594469	584995	0.89	High Positive
Students' Safety (y)	360							

Source: Field survey, 2022

The data analysis in Table 4.3 showed that the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient value (r) was 0.89. This indicated that there is a positive relationship between active listening and students' safety. This means that an increase in active listening leads to increase in students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

## Test of Hypotheses

Hypotheses 1: There is no significant relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

**Table 4.4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the significant relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State**

Variable	N	Df	R	t-cal	t-crit	Sig. level	Decision
Active supervision (x)	360						
Students' Safety (y)	360	358	0.88	2.19	1.96	0.05	Rejected

Source: Field survey, 2022

The analysis on Table 4.4 indicated that the t-cal of 2.19 is higher than the t-crit of 1.96. The calculated t-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is higher than the given critical value of t-ratio. So, the hypothesis 1 is thus rejected and the conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Hypotheses 2: There is no significant relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

**Table 4.5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the significant relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State**

Variable	N	Df	R	t-cal	t-crit	Sig. level	Decision
School surveillance (x)	360						
students' safety (y)	360	358	0.84	2.19	1.96	0.05	Rejected

Source: Field survey, 2022

The analysis on Table 4.5 indicated that the t-cal of 2.19 is higher than the t-crit of 1.96. The calculated t-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is higher than the given critical value of t-ratio. So, the hypothesis 2 is thus rejected and the conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

**Table 4.6: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the significant relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State**

Variable	N	Df	R	t-cal	t-crit	Sig. level	Decision
Active listening (x)	360						
Students' Safety (y)	360	358	0.89	2.22	1.96	0.05	Rejected

Source: Field survey, 2022

The analysis on Table 4.6 showed that the t-cal of 2.22 is higher than the t-crit of 1.96. The calculated t-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is higher than the given critical value of t-ratio. So, the hypothesis 3 is thus rejected and the conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings in Research Question One: What is the relationship between active supervision as teachers' duty of care and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State showed that there is positive relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. The corresponding hypothesis 1 was rejected and the conclusion is that there is significant relationship between active supervision and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. The findings is in the same vein with (Children and Family Directorate 2016), who noted that that sexual exploitation is the actual or attempted abuse of someone's position of vulnerability. The study still revealed that the respondents agreed that sexual exploitation is an abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality without consent, for the perpetrators benefit. It was also observed from the analysis that the respondents accepted the point that child sexual abuse can include both contact and non-contact sexual activity, in person or via virtual means. The analysis still indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that sexual abuse includes sexual slavery, pornography, child abuse and sexual assault. The study also showed that the respondents accepted the fact that teachers are in a good position to notice the changes in behavior and physical signs that may indicate involvement in sexual exploitation.

The findings in Research Questions Two: What is the relationship between school surveillance and false imprisonment and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State indicated that there is significant relationship between school surveillance and false imprisonment and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. However, the corresponding hypothesis 2 was rejected and conclusion is that there is significant

relationship between school surveillance and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. This study is in the same view with Isochukwu, (2018), who noted that false imprisonment is deprivation of liberty of a person for any length of time, without lawful excuse. False imprisonment also means detention against will or if something of value has been taken and the person will not leave without it. It was still noticed in the study that the respondents agreed on the fact that false imprisonment can arise in schools when students are required to stay after school. The analysis also revealed that the respondents accepted the view that false imprisonment can be punishable under criminal law as well as under Tort law. The analysis indicated that the respondent agreed on the fact that adults can grant consent by voluntarily remaining in the situation, the same does not apply to children.

The findings in Research Question Three: What is the relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State showed that there is positive relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State? The corresponding hypothesis 3 was rejected and the conclusion is that there is significant relationship between active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. The finding is in the same vein with (Legal information institute n.d.), who noted that that assault is an intentional act that puts another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful or offensive contact. The study still revealed that the respondents agreed that in general practice no physical injury is required, but the actor must have intended to cause a harmful or offensive. It was also observed from the analysis that the respondents accepted the point that assault might include things like being pushed, shoved, punched, or kicked, and can even involve weapons. The analysis still indicated that the respondents agreed on the view that apprehension in the context of assault refers to the victim's belief that the act will lead to harmful or offence. The study further showed that the respondents accepted the fact that the main types of assault are common assault, actual body harm and so on.

---

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that, there is relationship between active supervision, school surveillance and active listening and students' safety in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

---

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to ensure that this study achieve its objectives.

1. School management should orient the teachers on the need for active supervision as it improves students' safety in public senior secondary schools.
2. School management should orient the management teaching staff on importance of school surveillance because of its implication on students' safety in public senior secondary schools.
3. Government should always organize conferences for its teaching staff on active listening because of its importance to students' safety in public senior secondary schools.

---

## REFERENCES

- Acharya, S. (n.d.) *Supervision*. Retrieved from <https://www.economicdiscussion.net/management/supervision-meaning/31921> on 09/02/2023.
- Children and Family Directorate (2016). *Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Practitioner Briefing Paper*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-practitioner-briefing-paper/> on 15/6/2022.
- Chudi C. N. (2017). *The Legal Implicates of Duty of Care*. Global journal of politics and law research vol. 5 No 4 retrieved from [ejournal.org/wp-content/uploads/the-legal-implication-of-duty-of-care](http://ejournal.org/wp-content/uploads/the-legal-implication-of-duty-of-care) on 13/11/2021.
- Gabrielle A. (2022). *Why Is School Safety Important?* Retrieved from [kids.lovetoknow.com](http://kids.lovetoknow.com) on 7/6/2022.
- Gage N. A., Haydon T., Macsuga, A. S., Flowers, E. & Erdy L. (2020). *An Evidence-Based Review and Meta-Analysis of Active Supervision*. *Behavioral Disorders*, 45(2), 117-128. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/01987429851021> on 10/02/2023
- Isochukwu, (2018). TORT 1.4 FALSE IMPRISONMENT. Retrieved from <https://isochukwu.wordpress.com/2018/01/19/tort-1-4-false-imprisonment> on 21/11/2022.
- Legal information institute (n.d.). False Imprisonment. Retrieved from [https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/false\\_imprisonment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/false_imprisonment) on 19/11/2022
- Tucker W. J. & Vance A. (2016). *Education Leaders Report School Surveillance: The Consequences for Equity and Privacy*. A journal of national association for state board of education. Retrieved from [https://nasbe.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/2021/11/Tucker\\_Vance-Surveillance-Final.pdf](https://nasbe.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/2021/11/Tucker_Vance-Surveillance-Final.pdf) on 11/02/2023.