IMPACT OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SEX ON SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS OF UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATES

[1]Joe –Akunne, Chiamaka O. [2] Umeobi, Godwin C. [3] Dr. C. A. F. Okoye
[1][2][3]Department of Psychology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

ABSTRACT: *This study investigated the impact of Emotional Intelligence and Sex on Security Consciousness of undergraduate students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka. 872 participants were used for the study. They comprised of 412 males (47.2%) and 460 females (52.8%) aged between 18 - 35 years with a mean age of 26.5 years and standard deviation of 5.34. Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire-short form (TEQue-SF) by Petrides and Furnham (2006) and Security Consciousness Inventory (SCI) by Umeobi (2013) were used to collect the data for this study. Three hypotheses were tested in the study. The first hypothesis which stated that "Students of high emotional intelligence will not differ significantly from those of low emotional intelligence on security consciousness" was rejected at F (864) = 7.20, P < .05. The second hypothesis which stated that "Male students will not differ significantly from female students on security consciousness" was rejected at F (864) = 17.64, P < .05. The third hypothesis which stated that "Emotional intelligence (high/low) and sex (male/female) will not have significant interaction effect on security consciousness among students" was accepted at F (864) = 1.11, P > .05. The results were discussed and recommendations were also made.*

KEYWORDS: Emotional Intelligence, sex, Security and Security Consciousness.

INTRODUCTION

Today in Nigeria, insecurity is one of the biggest challenges facing the masses. This challenging insecurity are present in forms such as incessant killing, bombing, armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killing, rape, and other vices and they spurt from such indices as political crisis, ethno-religious crisis, unemployment, lop-sided development, inter family/tribal disputes (due to a scarce commodity). It has handicapped the growth of the society in terms of economy and good inter personal relationship as people do not know who to relate with. People die every day in their large numbers, hard earned virtues and investments are lost on daily basis, and huge amount of money and other items of treasury are lost as well. Even with this recent trend, the usual hope of the masses, the security operatives and agencies also fail them- their manpower bases are insufficient, handicapped in terms of equipment and material provision and the unscrupulous ones among them also form part of the threat against security.

All these happen and have raised massive campaign for security consciousness among the masses in the country. But even with the ongoing security consciousness awareness campaign following the recent trend of things in the society; some people are still not bothered to be security conscious. People still travel in masse at night even with striding trend of night

robbery; some still keep large sum of money at home notwithstanding the numerous commercial bank branches around and their ICT enabled easy ways of using funds; some still drink themselves to stupor in public bars thereby prompting them to divulge relevant information concerning themselves and their places of work; even some of the vulnerable population in crisis laden areas like the Ibos and Christians in Maiduguri, Jos, and other parts of northern Nigeria refuse to make way to their home region as the crisis lasts not minding the lives wasted on daily bases; students still involve in cult activities and some others still go into un-scrutinized relationships (such as blind dating, social media relationship, to mention a few), talk anyhow, take unnecessary risks and involve in all other behaviors and acts that endanger their lives in and around the school.

Considering the security situation in Nigeria today: bombing and massive killing by the Boko Haram sect, political crisis, youth violence, fraudsters, campus cultism and cult groups, ethno-religious crisis like the Jos crisis, armed robbery, kidnapping for ritual and for ransom, rape, murder, child trafficking and others, security consciousness is expected of every human being living in the country. Based on this assertion, it can be deduced that security consciousness is a necessity in the present day.

Eme & Onyishi (2011) in their recommendations for a way forward to the question of insecurity in Nigeria carefully opined that people should be more security conscious, share information with the police and other security agencies. In addition, the populace should not leave security matters to security personnel only. All should be involved in security information and data gathering. Moreover, efforts should be put in crime prevention than control and apart from the governments' own role; all hands should also be on deck to eliminate this monster of insecurity in Nigeria. This is in line with one of the recommendations of Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) that:
"Security should be seen as everybody's business. As individuals we need to cultivate the habit of security consciousness and to report any security situation to the appropriate authority (not only the police) immediately. Every individual must evince a high level of security awareness and alertness. This is because individuals understand their communities better and any report of suspicious behaviour or activity could lead to actionable intelligence leading to disruption of attacks. Through the early detection of impending conflicts and its prevention, it will help to provide a safe and enabling environment for the people to operate in, and for economic development to thrive." (2013:96).

It is expedient then that one be very security conscious because on daily basis, lives are being wasted and hard earned virtues are lost. Thus, every individual in the country is saddled with the responsibility of being mindful of changes in his/her environment in order to notice prospective threats; not moving about with huge cash and other valuables instead make use of the modern smart and secure means of carrying cash in order not to attract armed robbers; not to be keeping unnecessarily late at nights; not to discuss classified issues concerning one's life, work and treasury; report any suspected move or strange acts observed in the environment to appropriate authority; make sure that his/her house, office or shop is placed under secure lock once he/she is not available; be sensitive to news and information in the area and neighborhood in order to know the next line of action and above all be mindful of the kind of company one keeps.

In this security discuss the undergraduate population of the country and the campus environment should not be neglected. It is expected of students to be security conscious because the many forms of threats that are exhumed within campus environment. Cult activities, prevalent use of student environments as sites for getting political thugs, ritual materials and sex objects among other issues are exemplary of the foregoing.

Talking about security, it forms a critical part of fundamental/basic needs of mankind. This was buttressed by the famous hierarchy of need by Abraham Maslow (1970). In his proposed five basic needs of mankind, the need for safety (safety need) was the second after the physiological needs (needs for food, drink, sleep, oxygen, shelter and sex). Individuals who live in unsafe environments may need to spend a great deal of time and energy trying to protect themselves and their possession (Engler, 2006). Still from the foregoing, Engler (2006) points that safety/security refers to the organism's requirement for an orderly, stable and predictable world. With this, security becomes a need other than just a point.

Security consciousness in the context of this research is a measure of one's alertness, sensitivity and response to his/her environment in relationship to safety or security. It involves being active and able to analyze one's surrounding circumstances as well as activities of other individuals that may present as threat to one's safety. Security has many aspects and as such security consciousness is multi-faceted but for matters of coverage and specificity, this study will trail along the individual security consciousness track. This is one's measure of alertness, sensitivity and response to his/her environment to ensure safety or security of his/her life and immediate belongings which when attacked opens the individual's vulnerability to threats. Individual security consciousness is achievable if one can be able to assess his/her environment which includes other individuals around him and thinking of these individuals, their emotions are essential components to consider. Since individual security consciousness is geared towards safety and security of the individual in question and that of his/her immediate belongings through which harm can reach him/her, then emotional intelligence should play a role in achieving maximum security sensitivity or awareness in the individual.

The construct of emotional intelligence (EI) was initially proposed by Salovey and Mayer (1990), but it was Goleman (1995) who popularized the concept. Goleman (1998) defined emotional intelligence as the capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in us and in our relationships.

Of recent, in Nigeria, research attention on emotional intelligence has proliferated across disciplines and among researchers (Adeyemo & Ogunyemi, 2005; Aremu, 2005). Ashforth and Humphrey (1995) corroborated this by asserting that social scientists are just beginning to uncover the relationship of emotional intelligence to other phenomena. The general contention of these researchers is that emotional intelligence as a construct of interest is germane to the well being of man, organization and his society.

By definition, Emotional intelligence is the capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in us and in our relationships. It describes abilities in distinct form but complementary to academic intelligence or the purely cognitive capacities measured by intelligence quotient (Goleman, 1998). It is also the ability to perceive emotions, to access and generate emotions so as to assist thought, to understand emotions and emotional knowledge, and to reflectively regulate emotions so as to promote emotion and intellectual growth (Mayer & Salovey, 1997). Emotional intelligence reflects one's ability to deal with daily environmental challenges and helps predict one's success in life, including professional and personal pursuits (Bar-on, 1997). Mayer and Salovey (1993) have defined emotional intelligence as a type of social intelligence that involves the ability to monitor one's own and other's emotions, to discriminate among them, and to use the information to guide one's thinking and actions. From this definition, it is observed that emotional intelligence has its root in the concept of social intelligence, which was first propounded by Thorndike (1920). According to him, social intelligence is the ability to understand and manage men and women, boys and girls to act wisely in human relations. Gardner (1993) in his theory of multiple intelligences classified it under interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence. Gardner (1993) described interpersonal intelligence as the ability to understand other people, while intrapersonal intelligence is a correlative ability. That is, ability to understand self. It was from these two concepts from Howard Gardner's Multiple Theory of Intelligence that Emotional Intelligence took its derivation. Salovey and Mayer (1990) were of the opinion that emotional intelligence can be categorized into five domains: Self-awareness (i.e., observing oneself and recognizing one's feeling as it happens); managing emotions (i.e., handling feelings in a more appropriate way); motivating oneself (i.e., channeling one's emotions in the direction of a goal); empathy (i.e., being sensitive to others' feelings and concerns); and handling relationships (i.e., managing others' emotions).

The above indicate the dynamism and relevance of emotional intelligence in human endeavors (including work place and organization). Goleman (1995) lent a support to this by asserting that emotional intelligence involves the skills that help people harmonize; and what has become increasingly valued as a work place asset in the years to come. This again underscores the importance of emotional intelligence.

Historically, the most distinct roots of emotional intelligence can be traced to Darwin's early work in 1872, which theorized about broader emotional social intelligence necessary for human survival and adaptation. In the expression of the emotions in man and animal, Darwin posited that human emotional expression have evolved overtime because of their link with reactions that have had adaptive value. One of such reactions may include security consciousness. This means that emotional intelligence, plausibly, can influence security consciousness.

In addition to emotional intelligence, sex is another variable of interest in this study. It is the biological nature of being male or female. Male individuals would naturally behave in ways

different from the way their female counterparts would. This is evident in many cases/issues of which the way they react to security threats and insecurity in the society is not an exemption. Young males would naturally expose themselves to risks than the females and risks especially threatening ones are crucial issues in the security of a person. Even the society presents some of these ways of reaction to certain sex as gender roles. Keeping late nights, night travelling, not minding one's environments amongst other issues are more expected from males than females. Females are usually expected more than the males to be careful especially in the context of the culture in which this work is located, the Ibo land.

Reviewing past empirical works, it was observed that, Uzuegbunam (2007) carried out a study with 385 participants: 200 (52.5%), males and 185 (47.5%), females. The study examined the relationship between gender (male and Female) and perception of security friendly conscious environment in Nigeria. At F value of 26.599 with a significant F value of 0.003 (alpha level=0.05) using multiple regression analysis, the study found out that there is a positive relationship between gender (male and female) and perception of security conscious friendly environment in Nigeria. The study thus concluded that equal opportunity is not provided for male and female population in Nigeria society for a security friendly conscious environment.

In a security study by (Kotulic, & Guynes-Clark, 2004) non-respondents of a security survey revealed various reasons for non-participation. Non-participants indicated (23%) that they did not feel it was worth their time in relation to the value they would gain from the survey. They also indicated (23%) that they do not share any information about security policies with outside entities. This could be due to fear of disapproval by management or a lack of understanding of the value toward improving security performance.

However, in a study by Caprioli and Boyer (2001), the scholars relate gender to a central international security hypothesis: the democratic peace. Through quantitative and statistical data, they examined the relationship between domestic gender equality and states' use of violence internationally. Their results indicate that as gender equality increases within a state, the violence used by that state in international conflict decreases. Consequently, gender directly affects international security through its influence on states' use of violence.

To see if security consciousness has an impact on emotional intelligence and sex, three(3) hypotheses were formulated thus:

- **H1** - Students of high emotional intelligence will not differ significantly from those of low emotional intelligence on security consciousness.
- **H2** - Male students will not differ significantly from female students on security consciousness.
- **H3** - Emotional intelligence (high/low) and sex (male/female) will not have significant interaction effect on security consciousness among students.

METHOD

Participants
872 volunteer undergraduate students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State aged between 18 to 35 years with mean age of 26.5 years and standard deviation of 5.34. 412 (47.2%) were males while 460 (52.8%) were females.

Instrument: Two sets of instruments were used for the study; Security Consciousness Inventory (SCI) and Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire-short form (TEIQue-SF).

Security Consciousness Inventory (SCI) is 21-item inventory designed to assess one's consciousness (sensitivity, alertness and awareness) in respect to security. The inventory was developed by Umeobi (2013). Three response categories of "Not at all (0)", "Sometimes (1)" and "Always (2)" were used. The measure yielded a reliability coefficient of .62 (Cronbach Alpha). A mean score of 24.9 (approximately 25) and above shows that one measures high on security consciousness while scores that are below that shows person with low security consciousness.

Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire-short form (TEIQue-SF) by Petrides and Furnham (2006) is a 30-item questionnaire with 7 point likert format response options: 1 to 7- completely disagree (CD), disagree (D), partially disagree (PD), undecided (UD), partially agree (PA), agree (A), completely agree (CA). The researchers adapted the instrument and subjected it to pilot study to ascertain the reliability and a Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient of .75 and a split half reliability of .71 was obtained. A mean score of 148 and above shows one with a high emotional intelligence while scores lower than 148 shows low emotional intelligence.

Procedure

The researchers visited the Association of students of each faculty, told them of the research and pleaded with them to gather students who are willing to participate in the research in their faculty's quadrangle in two days. This is to enable the researchers administer the questionnaire. The Association agreed and said the researchers should come back in three days. In three days, the researchers went back to the faculties and administered the questionnaire which was also collected the same day to minimize loss. A gift of pen(biro) was given to each participant. A total of 1005 questionnaires were distributed, 902 (89.8%) were returned and 872 (86.8%) were found useable.

Design and Statistics
The study has as its predictor variables, Emotional Intelligence, and sex while, security consciousness is the criterion variable. Survey design was adopted for the study and two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistics was used in testing the hypotheses for this study.

RESULT

The result of the statistical analysis of the data obtained in the study are presented in the tables below.

Table 1: Summary table of two-way ANOVA analysis of emotional intelligence on security consciousness.

Results from table 1 indicated that there was a significant difference between students of high emotional intelligence and students of low emotional intelligence on their security consciousness based on their means; high EI (M = 25.12, SD = 4.34) and low EI (M = 24.25, SD = 4.23).
The table also, indicated that based on the two-way Anova analysis at F(864) = 7.20, P<.05, there was also a significant difference. Thus the first hypothesis was rejected showing that students of high emotional intelligence differed from students of low emotional intelligence in their security consciousness.

Table 2: Summary table of two-way ANOVA analysis for Sex on Security Consciousness.

Results from table 2 indicated that there was a significant difference between male and female students on their security consciousness based on their means; males (M = 24.04, SD = 4.58) and females (M = 25.29, SD = 3.97).
The table also, indicated that based on the two-way Anova analysis at F(864) = 17.64, P<.05, there was also a significant difference. Thus the second hypothesis was rejected showing that male and female students differed in their security consciousness.

Table 3: *Summary table of two-way ANOVA for test of "Between-subject Effects"*- Emotional Intelligence and Sex on Security Consciousness.

Results from table 3 indicated that there was no significant interaction effect F (864) = 1.11, P > .05 between "Emotional intelligence (high/low) and sex (male/female) on security consciousness among students. Thus the third hypothesis was accepted.

DISCUSSION

In the course of this study, three hypotheses were tested. The first hypothesis which stated that "Students of high emotional intelligence will not differ significantly from those of low emotional intelligence on security consciousness" was rejected. This means that students that measure high in emotional intelligence differed from those that measured low on security consciousness. There is therefore a significant difference in security consciousness between people of high emotional intelligence and those of low emotional intelligence.

This finding is in line with the opinion of Jawer & Micozzi (2009), that feelings (emotions) are the basis of consciousness and even considered it a form of consciousness. This implies that how intelligent one is, in his/her understanding and management of feelings (emotion) and that of others is in no doubt playing a role or is part of consciousness.

The second hypothesis which stated that "Male students will not differ significantly from female students on security consciousness" was rejected. This means that male participants differed from their female counterparts on security consciousness. However, the study showed that females measured higher on security consciousness than their male counterparts. This tends to show that given normal and equal condition, females will show higher security consciousness than males in a given time. This finding is in line with the layman's understanding and assumption that women should be more conscious of their security since perhaps, they are regarded as the weaker sex. Women do not usually take/indulge in actions or behaviors that could endanger their lives or expose them to security risks and this might answer why men are usually seen more in keeping late night, drinking to stupor, and exhibiting security unconscious risk behaviours. The findings also go down well with the findings of Uzuegbunam (2007) which concluded that male and female population in Nigeria society is not provided with equal opportunity for security friendly conscious environment. Also, Kameri-Mbote (2004) opined that women are perceived as victims of insecurity rather than as actors with the capacity to contribute to the maintenance of security and its restoration when insecurity ensues. This opinion on gender and security agrees with this finding with a light towards why women may present higher security consciousness than men. One who is considered a victim of something or as being highly vulnerable would rather be more conscious than one with the antidote or capacity to fight the same thing.

The third hypothesis which stated that "Emotional intelligence (high/low) and sex (male/female) will not have significant interaction effect on security consciousness among students" was accepted. This implies that though emotional intelligence has an influence on security consciousness, the influence does not depend on sex (whether the person is a male or female). Therefore, females will likely show higher security consciousness than males irrespective of whether high or low in emotional intelligence.

Based on the above discussion, it is necessary to say that this study provided important research information on the variables (Emotional intelligence and sex) that influence security consciousness among university undergraduates. It is then recommended that Emotional Intelligence development exercise/programs and security consciousess program should be organized for students to increase security consciousness among them. Women should be involved in the selection of security personnel in areas that require security conscious persons since they show more security conscious behavior than males. It is also recommended that more research works should be done centering on emotional intelligence and sex on security consciousness.

CONCLUSION

Although generaliazation of results of this study is limited by its scope, the study is nonetheless a major contribution to existing literature on the variables that influence security consciousness among undergraduate students.

It is also important that the society at large, the government and nongovernmental organizations are encouraged to consider the recommendations offered in this study to help

achieve a more security conscious society which will drastically reduce the cost of securitization in the country.

REFERENCES

Achumba, I. C., Ighomereho, O. S. & Akpor-Robaro, M. O. M. (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development." *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(2), 79- 99

Adeyemo, D.A. and B. Ogunyemi. (2005). "Emotional Intelligence and Self-Efficacy as Predictors of Occupational Stress among Academic Staff in a Nigerian University". *Electronic Journal of Organisational Learning and Leadership*, 4.

Akin I. (2008). The utility of close-circuit television (CCTV) in intelligence gathering by security operatives in Nigeria. *Proceedings of conference on intelligent security*, Sheraton Hotel & towers, Lagos.

Akinterinwa, B. A. (2001). US national security strategy and Nigeria. *The Nigerian Voice Newspaper*, 2.

Ameh, J. (2008). Nigeria under security threats from Jetties - Reps. *The Punch Newspaper*, 9.

Aremu, A.O. 2005. "A Confluence of Credentialing, Career Experience, Self-Efficacy, Emotional Intelligence, and Motivation on the Career Commitment of Young Police in Ibadan." *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management,* 28(4): 609 – 618.

Ashforth, B.E., and R. H. Humphrey. 1995. "Emotion in the Workplace: A Reappraisal". *Human Relations*, 48(2): 97-125.

Bar-On, R. (1997). *Bar-On Emotional Quotient Inventory (EQ-I): Technical Manual.* Toronto, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.

Caprioli, M., & Boyer, M. A. (2001). Gender, violence and international crisis. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 45(4), 503–518.

Crane, M. (2007). Security in Nigeria. Retrieved on March 22, 2013 from http://www.cfr.org/nigeria/security-nigeria/p10029.

Ekweremmadu, I. (2013). Policing and National Security in Nigeria: the choices before us. Paper presented at the 2013 Annual Lecture of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, March 2.

Eme, O. I. & Onyishi, A. (2011). The challenges of insecurity in Nigeria: a thematic exposition. *Interdisciplinary journal of contemporary research in business,* 3(8), 172-185.

Engler, B. (2006). *Personality theories* (7th Ed.). New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Ezeh, L. N. & Ndukaife, I. L. G. (2012). *Ethnic Militia and Violent Crimes in Nigeria: a Psychological Paradigm*. Paper presented at the 2012 Annual National Conference of the Nigeria Psychological Association (NPA), Abuja.

Gardner, H. 1993. *Frames of Mind*. New York: Basic Books.

Giardini, A., Frese, M., (2008). Linking service employees' emotional competence to customer satisfaction: A multilevel approach. *Journal of Organizational Behavior* 29(2), 155-170.

Goleman, D. 1995. *Emotional Intelligence: Why it can Matter More than IQ*. New York: Bantam Books.

Goleman, D. (1998). *Working with Emotional Intelligence.* New York: Bantam Books.

Jawer, M. & Micozzi, M. (2009). *The Spiritual Anatomy of Emotion*. Park Street Press.

Kameri-Mbote, P. (2004). *Gender, Conflict and Regional Security.* In Makumi Mwagiru (ed.). *African Regional Security in the Age of Globalisation.* Nairobi: Heinrich Böll Foundation.

Kotulic, A. & Guynes-Clark, J. (2004). Why there aren't more information security research studies. *Information and management*, 41(1), 597-607.

Maslow, A. H. (1943). A theory of human motivation. *Psychological Review*, 50, 370 –396.

Mayer, J. D. & Salovey, P. (1997). Broader Conceptions of mood Experience. *Journal of Personality and social psychology,* 11(60): 100-111.

Mayer, J. D. & Salovey, P. (1997). *What is emotional intelligence*? In P. Salovey, & D. Sluyter (Eds.) *Emotional development and emotional intelligence: Educational implications* (3–34). New York: Basic Books.

Nnoli, O. (2006). *National Security in Africa; A Radical New Perspective.* Enugu: SNAAP PRESS LTD.

Nwagboso, C.I. (2012). Security Challenges and Economy of the Nigerian State (2007 – 2011). *American International Journal of Contemporary Research,* 2(6), 244-258.

Ogunleye, G. O., Adewale, O. S., Alese B. K. and Ogunde, A. O. (2011). A Computer-Based Security Framework for Crime Prevention in Nigeria. *A Paper presented at the 10th international conference of the Nigeria computer society* held from July 25th-29th.

Petrides, K. V. & Furnham, A. (2006). The role of trait emotional intelligence in a gender-specific model of organizational variables. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 36,* 552-569.

Salovey, P., & Mayer, J. D. (1990). Imagination, Cognition and personality. *Emotional Intelligence, 9*(1), 185-211.

Thorndike, E.L. (1920). Intelligence and its use. *Harper's Magazine*, 140, 227-235.

Umeobi, G. C. C. (2012). *The Concern of the Social Scientists to the Security Challenges in Nigeria: a Psychological Insight*. Paper presented at the 2012 Lecture series of the Faculty of Social Sciences Students Association (FOSSSA), Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, May 28.

Uzuegbunam, A. O. (2006). *Development Administration and Security Friendly Consciousness in Nigeria Society: Challenges from Social and Gender Perspectives*. Proceeding of 2006 International Conference, on Affirming Diversity: Women Making a Difference, held at San Antonio Texas U.S.A., May 18-20, 2006, by WGC.www.womensglobalconnection.org

Wolfer, A. (1962). *Discord and Collaboration: Essays on International Politics*. New York: John Hopkins University Press.