

ROUTINE ACTIVITIES AND BURGLARY IN STUDENTS' OFF-CAMPUS SETTLEMENTS AT THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY WUKARI, TARABA STATE

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ABSTRACT: Over time, students in Nigeria's tertiary institutions have resorted to off-campus accommodation due to limited on-campus hostel accommodation. Off-campus settlements are a mosaic, housing students from various ethnic, religious and social groups, thereby creating fertile ground for heightened routine activities that predispose students to burglary. This study explored gaps in existing research by focusing on students' routine activities, their patterns, and their overall implications for burglary. Using the broken windows theory and routine activity theory, the study examined the variables that account for students' exposure to burglars. The survey design was adopted given its effectiveness in collecting data from a sample of the population for generalisation. Cochran's sample size formula was used to select 131 students from a sample frame. A multistage sampling technique screened students across clusters of settlements, using a systematic approach to have students complete a closed-ended questionnaire in their homes. Frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation were used for descriptive analysis. Students' nighttime activities were found to be the most strongly associated with burglary. Additionally, most burglaries occurred during holidays, although there were troubling cases in which students went out for studies and other engagements at night, including attending lectures in broad daylight. Accessories such as laptops, radios, and televisions were the most frequently stolen items during the holidays. The multiple linear regression results showed $F [(2, 117) = 6.419, P=0.002]$, suggesting a significant effect of the pattern of routine activities on burglary. Also, the Pearson correlation results revealed a significant overall relationship between students' routine activities and burgled items. The study recommends, among other measures, that university management and landlords work together to ensure security, with landlords recruiting security guards and the University security unit monitoring off-campus settlements.

Keywords: Burglary, off-campus settlement, routine activities, security, students

INTRODUCTION

Burglary has reached a disproportionate level in students' off-campus settlements across Nigerian universities, with severe consequences for students. It has led to a disturbing trajectory in students' safety due to inadequate security. Tertiary institutions are spread across the globe. A university is dubbed the ivory tower, the highest educational institution where students are trained for bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. The modus operandi of managing students on campuses differs

considerably among institutions depending on available resources. Because students are drawn from various socioeconomic backgrounds, for security and other related reasons, they seek accommodation in safe settlements. For safety purposes, universities consider campus accommodation for students. This could stem from the impact of a serene environment on students' learning process. Aside from the serenity of on-campus hostels, students are lodged off-campus, closer to their lecture theatres. Now that insecurity is taking a toll on all facets of human life, it becomes expedient for university management to increase access to students' accommodation on campus. That is why most universities have their in-house accommodation regulations for students across all levels of study. In some universities, hostel accommodation is reserved for first-year and final-year students.

However, there are two categories of student accommodation: on-campus and off-campus (Du Plessis & Amoah, 2021). In most cases, the latter is owned by private individuals primarily for profit-making. The former is run by university management. The growing challenges evident in depleted resources have made campus accommodation insufficient for all. Even amid limited hostel accommodation, some students prefer staying off-campus, although they are officially scheduled for hostels. Anecdotal evidence shows that students prefer staying off-campus for privacy even when they are eligible for hostel accommodation. It is the conglomeration of off-campus accommodation that makes up students' settlements in most Nigerian universities. Social and economic factors may be taken into consideration while choosing to stay off-campus. The availability of potable water, electricity supply, and security, among others, is prioritised in some quarters. However, burglary issues are pandemic. They have been reported cases across the continents in residential houses and commercial apartments.

In Taipei City, China, about 4,409 residential burglaries were reported in 2017 alone (Juan & Lin, 2023). Several factors may have accounted for the upsurge in burglary. Inadequate guardianship and/or poor vigilance may have contributed largely to this problem. A heterogeneous population characterised by high business activity leaves much to be explored. Free entry and exit for anonymous individuals may increase the likelihood of burglary in a highly diverse environment.

In Ghana, student accommodation in tertiary institutions has attracted considerable research. Over time, past administrations in the country have had policies aimed at addressing the trajectories of housing for the people. For instance, earlier attempts by the Kwame Nkrumah administration laid the groundwork for the government's provision of housing for both low- and middle-income residents (Amoah, Bamfo-Agyei & Simpeh, 2025). This, among other factors, set the stage for the interrogation of students' accommodation plights in tertiary institutions in Ghana. Students from low-income homes bear the brunt of inadequate on-campus accommodation, leaving them with the option of settling off-campus. Their usual patterns of interaction and routine activities could determine their probability of victimisation by burglars.

Nigeria is the most populous black nation in the world. According to the National Universities Commission (2026), Nigeria has 74 federal universities and 67 state universities. Recent data indicate that of Nigeria's 300 accredited universities, 74 are federal and 67 are state institutions (CampusGist, 2025). In these universities, students are distributed across on-campus and off-campus accommodation. On-campus accommodation is provided by the university management;

however, off-campus accommodation is owned by private house owners. Given an exponential increase in student enrolment, access to on-campus accommodation is competitive and limited, particularly for female students. Even with the private sector's participation to bridge the deficit, the numbers are still far from sufficient. Students' predisposition to victimisation could be influenced by the quality of safety regulations prescribed by house owners or university management. In campus accommodation, regulations are stringent, controlling the influx of visitors and strangers. Porters or university security guards are stationed to ensure compliance with university regulations. This is not obtainable in off-campus settlements, which are characterised by less stringent regulations.

Extant studies on students' housing have interrogated a number of factors accounting for students' choice of accommodation. For instance, a study by Amoah, Bamfo-Agyei and Simpeh (2025) revealed that the choice of accommodation is influenced by the quality of the building, privacy and management. Similarly, Ackermann and Visser (2016) emphasised the influence of quality accommodation, location, satisfaction and type of structure as determinants of students' accommodation. These findings remain empirical and valid; however, they are limited by methodological and variable considerations. While satisfaction and privacy are key, they might be negatively affected by the culture of students' routine activities. When this is considered alongside low safety regulations, the probability of burglary in students' settlements could be high. Interrogating students' routine activities and their implications for burglary is a compelling gap that needs to be addressed. This is necessary because most homeowners in off-campus settlements prioritise rent returns, neglecting student safety. Students may work out alternate safety measures among themselves, though not always adequate to guarantee their safety. In most cases, the services of local vigilantes are not sought. The inadequacy of protection by conventional security outfits could be compensated for by subscribing to community policing. Owing to a petty bourgeois mentality among most landlords, footing the paycheck of private security providers has always been a hard nut to crack. Consequently, burglaries have ballooned into a disproportionately uncontrollable menace in students' off-campus settlements. Therefore, the school management and owners of apartments in students' settlements seem to have been culpable of this trajectory. Landlords recruiting security guards to safeguard students' compounds could have helped stem the tide. And when this is integrated with regular surveillance by the school security team, concerns about students relocating their properties to safer houses during holidays would not have been brought to the forefront.

More so, Ghani and Suleiman (2016) suggested the consequences of poor housing, such as stress, health problems and depression among students. Similarly, Maguire (1980) focused on the emotional and psychological consequences of burglary by pointing out the feelings of fear of repeat and fear of loneliness among victims. The psychological distress is rather devastating among victims of domestic burglary (Kunst & Hoek, 2023). These findings aptly reviewed important variables of burglary, but did not look into students' routine activities susceptible to burglary in off-campus settlements. Additionally, there are overwhelming statistics on incidents of burglary in societies with sophisticated security architecture. About 1.5 million domestic burglaries are reported in the European Union, and the U.S. has a reported 1.1 million (Eurostat, 2022; United States Department of Justice/Federal Bureau of Investigation, n.d.). Recently, in the U.S., 779,542 incidents of burglary have been reported, owing to poor security systems, predictable lifestyles of

victims, and porous victims' travel plans (Zealous Advocate, 2026). Additionally, the report suggests that most of the offenders were male and were known to their victims. Of particular concern were the high-value items stolen, such as vehicles, cash, and firearms, among others. These reflect the global concern about the fragile state of security in homes and commercial centres. However, these indicators of burglary may differ considerably in students' off-campus settlements. Students' routine activities are predictable lifestyles, and their travel plans are revealed through publicised holidays. The probability of being predisposed to burglars is high, although the degree of exposure is unequal across locations and social groups. Students' predictable lifestyles may not be as porous as those of residents in private apartments and commercial centres. Students' houses are inhabited by social groups characterised by impersonal relationships, which may lead to low concern about safety; however, there may be a large student presence. This may present a unique impact on students, which could be compelling to ascertain. Also, a similar report showed that high-value items, such as vehicles, cash, and firearms, were stolen. Some of these items, especially firearms and vehicles, are rare in students' settlements. It remains to be seen whether useful commodities such as food, electronic gadgets, and clothes, commonly used by students, make up the list of stolen items. It is compelling to ask what happens to students' property when they attend lectures, study, take holidays, and engage in other activities. This study is primarily premised on ascertaining students' routine activities, patterns, and susceptibility to burglary in students' settlements at the Federal University, Wukari, Taraba State.

Objectives of the Study

- i. Explore the patterns of routine activities susceptible to burglary in students' settlement at Federal University Wukari.
- ii. Assess students' routine activities susceptible to burglary in the students' settlement at Federal University Wukari.
- iii. Determine the types of items burgled in students' settlements at Federal University Wukari.

Hypotheses

Ho₁: Patterns of routine activities have no significant effect on burglary in students' settlements at the Federal University Wukari.

Ho₂: Students' routine activities have no significant relationship with burgled items in students' settlements at the Federal University Wukari.

Exploring Routine Activities and the Dynamics of Burglary

In the general field of victimisation, several factors are interrogated in terms of their potency to predispose people to perpetrators. Environment, security, and lifestyles are considered to provide a robust review of the factors that predispose victims to attack. A fully secured environment may reduce the odds of victimisation. Variant cases exist to defy this position, as environments with high security have fallen victim to attacks at times. Therefore, depending on people's routine activities, burglary and other related crimes could be perpetrated. Occupation is one routine activity with significant implications. People are distributed across occupations in the banking sector,

security outfits, schools, recreational centres, hospitals and malls, etc. Work schedules are designed to allocate units of work to workers across time and space. Some workers have to leave for work at odd times. The roads linking workers to their places of work, including their immediate workplace, might not guarantee their security. This explains why increased robbery and arson, including other offences, are perpetrated because of darkness (Fotios, Robbins, & Farrall, 2021). An environment with high odds of victimisation could be screened through the types of building, neighbourhood relationships and lighting. An environment characterised by houses with high fences and poor relationships among neighbours could predispose inhabitants to burglars. In such an arrangement, there is an impersonal relationship among neighbours where pleasantries are hardly acknowledged. One does not know one's neighbours' friends, relatives, and colleagues, leading to poor access control in the neighbourhood. This explains why territoriality and access control were strong predictors of burglary during daytime, while access control and target hardening accounted for nighttime burglary (Montoya, Junger, & Ongena, 2016).

However, ever-growing economic challenges have led to increased routine activities across the globe. The quest to adapt in an increasingly competitive environment has led people to take on additional tasks to earn more and remain afloat. This, by implication, increases people's routine activities in diverse fields or endeavours. As part of their daily activities, people travel across states for appointments and other commitments. In most informal sectors, travel is common among market women, commercial drivers and corporate dispatchers. Their houses, offices, shops or stores may be left vulnerable as they travel about in their usual ways. To reduce the odds of burglary and other related theft, improved personal surveillance, crowd control in tense business settings and sufficient lighting are needed in visible idle spaces and streets (Juan & Lin, 2023). In most tertiary institutions in Nigeria, off-campus settlements may be tense with students from diverse locations and backgrounds. There seems to be less concern on the part of school management and landlords alike in safeguarding students' accommodation. Social relationships in such settlements might appear impersonal, where students do not bother to relate to their fellow students in the same compound. Spotting and identifying who comes in and out of such a compound might be difficult, thus exposing students to burglary. It follows that residential houses with higher levels of occupant surveillance had lower odds of burglary than those with surveillance provided by strangers or onlookers on the road (Amuri Brooks, Vila, & Daratha, 2019). There are uncommon periods and occasions where occupants' presence may not serve the requisite surveillance to pre-empt victimisation.

In a large rented compound, inflows of occupants are not regulated. Conditions may present themselves with zero occupant presence in a compound. At a point when one occupant is retiring home after a busy schedule at the workplace, another fellow occupant is leaving for work. Social and economic factors could play out to take occupants away from home at the same time, leaving no one around to serve as a pseudo-watchman. Houses in students' settlements are characterised by mixed cultures. This may be common in Nigerian federal universities where students are drawn from across states. Most states in Nigeria are culturally heterogeneous. It is not considered a concern for students to be their fellow students' keeper. A whole student compound could be deserted as students go out for their respective daily activities. Lectures in Nigerian universities are scheduled during the daytime. Whether they are conducted virtually or not, the interface between a lecturer and students is programmed to hold during the daytime. Burglary can occur during the daytime when students are out for lectures and/or out to run their daily activities. There are other night

activities students undertake apart from the daily daytime lectures. At night, students go out for academic activities in school, such as solo study, group tutorial classes and discussions, etc. This period offers a unique opportunity for students living off-campus to take advantage of classrooms at school to study. In most cases, students may feel bored reading in the comfort of their off-campus living room. Some would spend fewer hours reading than when they went to school to read. This explains why students' compounds are scarcely populated at night. There is a clear-cut difference between the number of students going out to read at night during exam periods and before exams.

However, there are peculiar items commonly stolen at students' settlements. The type of building and calibre of people living in an environment determine the type of property they possess, and by extension, the type of property that is likely to be burgled. When houses are burgled, victims may seek improved security measures, distrust their friends and neighbours, and battle post-traumatic stress disorder (Skogan, 1989).

Theoretical Framework

Broken Windows Theory

This theory was propounded by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling in 1982, premised on the concepts of disorderliness, community social control and crime. Crimes occur in space and time, depending on the extent of unchecked disorder. This could take the form of physical and social disorder, such as graffiti, littering, broken windows, public nuisance, and area boys syndrome, which trigger fear that can lead to resident withdrawal and low confidence in social control institutions. Such a broken environment could create a field day for motivated offenders to perpetrate crime. Potential criminals survey a broken environment—not fixing broken windows signals weak community social control, serving as a push-factor for criminal occurrence. Therefore, the ripple effect of an established order will lead to a positive cycle of stability, raising residents' confidence, hence a crime-free society. Less disorder will lead to less fear, while increased community interaction will birth stronger informal control that will keep crime at bay.

Furthermore, this theory explains the dynamics of routine activities and burglary in student settlements by re-evaluating the shared characteristics of students who make up the significant population of residents in student settlements. Most students' settlements are heterogeneous. Apart from the shared student identity, the majority are differentiated based on ethnic affiliation, life orientation and access to material possessions. There is apparently weak community social control, as evidenced by a lukewarm attitude towards misconduct, crime and other minor offences perpetuated by students or outsiders. Since interaction is mostly impersonal, informal social controls are weak, thereby predisposing the students' ecosystem to burglary and other related theft.

Routine Activity Theory

This theory was proposed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979. It interrogated the fundamental basis of the occurrence of crime across time and space, while shifting attention away from the age-old causes of crime. For crime to take place, three mutually exclusive elements must register their presence: the motivated offender who is willing and able to commit a crime; a suitable

target which could be a person or object that is considered valuable, visible, accessible and lacking protection; and the absence of a capable guardian which could be a person, security system or police dog that could prevent crime by whatsoever means. However, the theory holds that crime is perpetuated by a pool of motivated offenders who capitalise on the suitability of their targets, whose routine activities have made them vulnerable on account of the absence of capable guardians. This explains the intricacies of the routine activities of students and burglary incidents in students' settlements. The routine activities of students could take the form of lectures and other engagements at night and during the day, and during their holidays. The usual patterns of activities are surveyed by motivated offenders. They become prime targets when security or guardians are weak or absent while they are outside their settlements. The needed police and other agents of social control are scarcely stationed.

METHODOLOGY

The survey design served as the primary instrument for data collection. This is because it allows for the collection of information from a fraction of the parent population, which is used for generalisation. There are clusters of students' settlements at the Federal University Wukari. Some of the settlements are nicknamed: Agata's Lodge, Opposite School Gate and Abunshu Estate. Most houses in the settlement were self-contained; only a few were in the form of "face-me-I-face-you". There were a few kiosks and makeshift shops for the sale of provisions. A closed-ended questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data. The questionnaire contained only closed-ended questions, mostly on a five-point Likert scale. The scale was allotted values starting from strongly agree (5 points), agree (4 points), undecided (3 points), disagree (2 points) and strongly disagree (1 point). A sample frame was formulated because there were no official records of the students' population in the off-campus settlements. Where some of these records exist, they are rarely comprehensive on account of unregulated and intermittent inflows and outflows of students. For analytical convenience, the routine activities of students were measured in terms of students' engagement in night-time and daytime activities. These activities were evident in day-to-day lecture attendance, studies outside their residence, and holidays. A random list of 200 students was taken to aid in determining the sample size for the study. Cochran's formula for sample size determination was used at a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of 0.05. The statistical result suggested an initial sample of 385. But for a study involving a population below 1000, there is a need for modification of the figure so that a reasonable sample size is selected. Given $n = \frac{no}{1 + (no-1)/N}$. A sample frame of 200 students could thus be modified: $385 / (1 + (384/200)) = 385 / (1 + 1.92) = 385 / 2.92 = 131$. This means that 131 students were randomly selected to complete the questionnaire across the settlements. Students' right to participate in the study was sought. The questionnaire was administered under strict confidentiality. This suggested applying a multistage sampling technique to select students across clusters of settlements. The first cluster was the students' settlements. Afterwards, houses were randomly selected from the settlements, making the second cluster. Systematic sampling was used to select students to complete the questionnaire in their homes. Only 118 questionnaires were retrieved, making up a 90 per cent return rate. Some of the students did not indicate interest in the study; however, the returned questionnaires were edited, coded, and computed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 2.0. For descriptive analysis, statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used. At the inferential level, Pearson correlation and multiple regression were used to test the hypotheses.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by socio-Demographic Characteristics, N=118

	Frequency	Percentage	X	Std Dev.
Sex				
Female	45		38.1	
Male	73		61.9	
Total	118		100%	
Age				
<18	19		16.1	
19-24	49		41.5	
25-30	38		32.2	24.19 7.414
31>	12		10.2	
Total	118		100%	
Status of Study				
Undergraduate	99		83.9	
Postgraduate	19		16.1	
Total	118		100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The male respondents constituted 61.9% (n=73), making up the larger proportion of the inhabitants in the students' settlement. There was a considerable presence of female students, representing 38.1% of the inhabitants (n=45). The greater presence of male students in the student settlement may be due to their being less susceptible to harassment than female students. Fear of assault could be a reason scaring female students away from off-campus accommodation. This explains why female hostel accommodation is highly competitive in most schools, even though there may be more female hostels than male in most federal universities.

In terms of age, most students in the settlement fell within the 19-24 age bracket, accounting for 41.5% (n=49). There was a considerable representation of students in the 25-30 age bracket. Those below 18, n=19 (16.1%), made up the inhabitants of the students' settlement. Only a small number were 31 and above, constituting (10.2%) n=12. The mean age was 24.19 years, thus reflecting the average age expected for a population of undergraduate students. This is particularly relevant given that the majority of respondents were undergraduate students (83.9%), n=99, living off campus. There was also a fair presence of postgraduate students off campus.

Table 2: Patterns of Routine Activities Susceptible to Burglary in Students' Settlements at Federal University Wukari, N=118

Patterns	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	STD Dev.
Students' routine night activities	59	46	6	6	1	4.32	.856
Students' routine daytime activities	12	43	18	40	5	3.14	1.127

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2 reveals the patterns of routine activities that were highly susceptible to students' vulnerability to burglary. On a 5-point Likert scale, all patterns were rated above the average (2.5). Students' nighttime routine activities (Mean = 4.32, STD = .856) were reported to be more strongly associated with predisposition to burglary in their settlements. Although there was low variability of opinion, as indicated by the standard deviation, night routines were fairly responsible for predisposing students to burglary. Also, students' daytime activities were notable (Mean=3.14, STD=1.127), amid high variability in respondents' opinions.

Table 3: Rating of Students' Routine Activities Susceptible to Burglars in Students' Settlement at the Federal University Wukari, N=118

Routine Activities	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	STD Dev.
Lectures & other engagements At daytime	28	59	14	12	5	3.79	1.053
Students' Holidaying	75	34	2	4	3	4.47	.894
Studying & other engagements At night	41	57	9	10	1	4.08	.917

Rating of Burglary	Frequency	Percentage
Low	32	27.1
Average	45	38.1
High	41	34.7
Total	118	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 3 shows the burglary rate related to students' routine activities in students' settlements at the Federal University, Wukari. There was a significant level of burglary, as reflected by the average rating (38.1%) n=45 and the high rating (34.7%) n=41. Only a small percentage (27.1%; n=32) believed that burglary was low following students' routine activities.

However, of particular concern was students' holidaying, which ranked highest (Mean = 4.47, STD = .894), indicating low variability in opinion, as indicated by the standard deviation. Students going out of their houses for studies and other engagements at night ranked second (Mean = 4.08, STD = .917), with low variability in opinion. It was also disturbing that students attending lectures and other daytime engagements (Mean=3.79, STD=1.053) exhibited high variability in opinion, as indicated by the standard deviation. Since holidaying is a routine aspect of academic life, proactive measures are needed to prevent burglaries in students' settlements during holidays.

Table 4: Commodities Burgled at Students' Settlement in Federal University Wukari, N=118

Commodities	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	STD Dev.
Clothes/wears	22	53	18	25	0	3.61	1.021
Foodstuffs	7	46	26	34	5	3.14	1.037
Money	13	51	18	33	3	3.32	1.077
Accessories like laptops, radio & Tv	70	37	4	2	5	4.40	.962

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 4 reveals the commodities most often burgled in the students' settlement. On a 5-point Likert scale, all burgled commodities were rated above the average (2.5). Accessories such as laptops, radio sets, and television sets were the most frequently burgled (Mean = 4.40, SD = .962), though with low variability in opinion. These were followed by clothing and other wear (Mean=3.61,

STD=1.021), money (Mean=3.32, STD=1.077), and foodstuffs (Mean=3.14, STD=1.037). Apart from burgled accessories, which showed low variability in opinion, all other commodities exhibited high variability in opinion, indicating a high rate of divergent responses among respondents.

Table 5: Pearson Correlation Matrix of Routine Activities of Students and Items Burgled in Students' Settlements in Federal University Wukari

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Students are out for lectures during daytime	—						
2. Students on holidays	.344**	—					
3. Students out for studies at night	.504**	.373**	—				
4. Clothes/wears burgled	.209**	.186**	.306**	—			
5. Foodstuffs burgled	.316**	.253**	.259**	.405**	—		
6. Money stolen	.377**	.222*	.442**	.131	.397**	—	
7. Laptops, TV & Radio burgled	.033	.246**	.227*	-.049	.220*	.180	—

** Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)

In Table5, the Pearson correlation matrix of routine activities of students and commodities burgled is established. Students' routine lectures during daytime were significantly related to clothes and burglarised ($r=.344$, $P<.01$). Also, there was a significant relationship between students' routine lectures during daytime with burglarised foodstuffs and stolen money ($r=.316$, $P<.01$, and $r=.377$, $P<.01$, respectively). Only burgled accessories like laptops, television and radio sets were not significantly related to students' routine lectures during daytime ($r=.033$, $P>.01$). Additionally, students' holidaying had a significant relationship with burgled clothes, burgled foodstuffs, stolen money and burgled accessories ($r=.186$, $P<.05$; $r=.253$, $P<.01$; $r=.222$, $P<.05$ and $r=.246$, $P<.05$ respectively). This also included a significant relationship between students going out of their houses for night studies on campus and burgled clothes, burgled foodstuffs, stolen money and burgled accessories such as laptops, television and radio sets ($r=.306$, $P<.01$; $r=.259$, $P<.01$, $r=.442$, $P<.01$ and $r=.227$, $P<.01$ respectively). Therefore, this suggests that there was a significant relationship between students' routine activities and commodities burgled at the students' settlement in Federal University Wukari.

Table 6: Multiple Regression Analysis of Pattern of Students' Routine Activities and Burglary

Model Summary

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate	Sig. F Change
1	.317	.100	.085	.752	.002

ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	7.262	2	3.631	6.419	.002
Residual	65.052	115	.566		
Total	72.314	117			

Coefficients

Predictor	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
Constant	.765	.374	—	2.044	.043		
Daytime Engagement	.086	.064	.124	1.355	.178	.936	1.068
Night Engagement	.241	.084	.262	2.867	.005	.936	1.068

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The independent variables, daytime activities and nighttime activities, were regressed on the dependent variable, burglary. To meet the requirements for multiple regression, a collinearity diagnostic was conducted to ensure the absence of multicollinearity among the independent variables. The relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables was low but positive ($r = .317$). The independent variables accounted for 10% of the variance in the dependent variable. Given $F [(2, 117)=6.419, P=0.002]$ affirmed a significant difference between the means of the variables, hence the rejection of the null hypothesis.

The regression coefficient reveals the contribution of each independent variable to the rejection of the null hypothesis. Routine broad daytime activities ($\beta = .124, t = 1.355, P > .05$) were not a significant predictor, whereas routine night activities ($\beta = .262, t = 2.867, P < .05$) were a significant predictor of burglary at students' settlement in the Federal University Wukari. It follows that a unit increase in students' night activities will increase burglary by .241 units.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Students in off-campus settlements are drawn from across Nigeria, particularly from federal universities. This study explored the effect of students' routine activities on burglary in students' settlements at Federal University Wukari, Taraba State. The susceptibility of students' routine

activities to burglary crime mirrored the imperatives of routine activity theory and the broken windows theory. Burglary was on a high spate, owing to the near absence of security during the holidays. Therefore, recurring incidents of burglary and other related crimes lay bare a weak social control, which is exploited by burglars. With fragile security amid some defined routine activities, the probability of an attack is high. Depending on the pattern of students' routine activities, motivated burglars have had to screen the likely opportunities to invade.

Findings revealed that the pattern of routine activities was highly susceptible to burglary. Of particular concern were students' routine night time activities, predisposing them to invaders. Corroboratively, Fotios, Robbins and Farrall (2021) suggested increased robbery and arson in darkness. Even with this, students were not spared from burglars when they were off for activities during the day.

While students maintain routine patterned activities in both day and night, their engagements revolve around lectures and other engagements during the day, at night, and on holidays. Burglars capitalised mostly on students' holidays, a period characterised by low human presence and vehicular movement in students' settlements. A fertile environment for crime is created, consistent with the tenets of routine activity theory. This suggests the ripple effects of the absence of guardians in students' settlements. Human presence serves as an informal control mechanism. A busy environment discourages hitch-free burglary. Amuri Brooks, Vila, and Daratha (2019) found that residential houses with higher occupant surveillance had lower odds of burglary than the surveillance provided by strangers or onlookers on the road.

Additionally, a number of items were found to have been stolen from students' settlements, including clothing, food, money, and accessories such as laptops, radios, and televisions. Overall, accessories were the most burgled items. Economically, these items are expensive and sensitive learning tools for students. For lost laptops, students may lose important documents that may be difficult to retrieve if they have no external backup. The psychological trauma resulting from such loss could be devastating (Skogan, 1989). If this is not properly managed, students may not perform at their best, thereby contributing to negative performance metrics.

The hypothesis test revealed a significant relationship between students' routine activities and the items burgled. Additionally, patterns of routine activities, specifically nighttime engagements, were significant predictors of burglary in students' settlements.

Conclusion

Off-campus students' settlements are unique in their culture. They exhibit characteristics typical of a heterogeneous population, given the variation in students' socio-demographic characteristics. Students' routine activities, such as attending lectures during daytime, holidaying and night engagements, were found to be highly susceptible to burglary. Houses in students' settlements are more prone to burglary during holidays. This is because burglars rely on low human presence to break into houses. In most cases, commodities and/or items such as clothes/wears, foodstuffs, money and accessories were stolen. For a robust interrogation of the problem, further study is needed on the influence of the socio-economic status of students on susceptibility to burglary,

including coping mechanisms and social support for students who are victims of burglary. However, to nip cases of burglary in the bud in students' settlements, there is a need, among others, for the provision of security in students' settlements, particularly during holidays.

Recommendations

- i. University management and landlords should work together to provide security, with landlords recruiting security guards and the University security unit monitoring off-campus settlements.
- ii. Students should devise a means of relocating their property to safer houses before going on holiday.
- iii. There is a need for students to harden their targets through fixing of sensitive padlocks, regulating their patterns of routine activities and monitoring inflows of visitors and strangers into their compounds.
- iv. Synergise with local vigilante groups for security.

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