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Socio-Demographic Factors as Determinants of Risk Perception Among Security Officers in Private Organisations in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract

The objective of the present paper was to find out the level of risk perception of the security personnel with respect to the different socio-demographic variables of gender, work experience, age marital status and educational qualification. Therefore, this study examined socio-demographic factors as determinants of perception of risk among security personnel in Ibadan. Nigeria. Cross-sectional research design was adopted. A total of 211 participants was surveyed and simple random sampling technique was used to sample respondents in this study. A structured questionnaire which focused on social-demographic characteristics and risk perception scales was used to collect data from the respondents. Three hypotheses were tested at 00o5 level using the t-test for independent samples and multiple regressions analysis. Results showed that risk perception of male respondents was significantly higher than the risk perception of their female counterparts t (200) = 3.552). Respondents who have just spent between 1-2 years in service scored significantly higher on perception of risk than participants who have spent 3 years and above among security personnel in Ibadan t (200) = 5.358). Age, marital status, educational qualification year of experience and rank jointly predicted perception of risks among security personnel with private security outfits in Ibadan, (R = .511; R^2 =.261; F (5,196) = 11.467). Gender, age, marital status, educational qualification, years of experience and rank were important predictors of perception of risks among private security guards in Ibadan.

Keyword: Gender, age, marital status, educational qualification, years of experience, rank and perception of risks.

Greek employees' risk perception depends mostly on work experience while British mployees were aware of risks due to company health and safety policy, recognizing that safety is the responsibility of both the management and the worker.

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the influence of socio-demographic factors (gender, age, marital status, work experience and educational qualification) as determinants of perception of risk among private security personnel in Ibadan. Nigeria. The study went further to examine the joint and independent influence of these socio-demographic factors on perception of risk.

2. Research Hypotheses

1. Male security personnel will score significantly higher on the measures of perception of risk than their female counterparts among security personnel in private security outfits in Ibadan.
2. Security personnel that have just spent between 1-2 years in the service will score significantly higher on the measures of perception of risk than their counterparts who have spent 3 years and above.
3. Age, religion, marital status, educational qualification, year of experience and rank will predict significant joint and independent influence of perception of risk among security personnel

3. Materials and Methods

Design

This study adopted a cross-sectional design to examine the influence of social-demographic factors (gender, age, year of experience, marital status and educational qualification) on perception of risk.

Setting

This study was conducted in different areas in Ibadan namely: University College Hospital (UCH) among Crown Continental Security Guards Company, Forestry Research Institute (FRIN) among Vaak Security Guards Company and Premium House Jericho among Ajifad Security Guards Company, these Security Guards Companies are chosen because they are among the leading private security guards companies in Ibadan and Nigeria at large. And as such, accommodate diverse sets of private security guards from different background and ethnic groups.

Participants

A total of two hundred and eleven (211) private security personnel were sampled for the study. Fifty-nine, 59 (28.0%) were male, 152 (72.0%) were female.One hundred and seventy-three 173 (82.0%) were Christian and 38 (18.0%) practiced Islamic religion.Frequency distribution according to their marital status showed that 52 (24.6%) were single, 159 (75.4%) were married. Their educational qualifications also showed that 150 (71.1%) had Primary/Secondary Certificates (Basic education), 61 (28.9%) had HND/1st degree and above (Tertiary education). Years of experience showed that 156

.9%) had 1-2 years of experience on the job, 55 (26.1%) had 3 years and above experience on the job. Ranking levels showed that 156 (73.9%) were of lower rank and 55 (26.1%) were of higher rank.

Inclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria included the followings

a.) must be a security personnel, b) working in a private security outfit, c) must have been working with such company for at least one year, d) must give his/her consent to participate in the study.

Sampling Techniques

Simple random sampling technique was used to select participants for the study. The researchers approached the participants that met the criteria for the study. Participants willing to participate in the study and gave his/her consent were given a package of questionnaire to fill.

The researchers gave them information on the purpose, potential benefits, and procedure of the study. The researchers were responsible for the administration, retrieval, and handling of the completed research instruments. Participants sampled were of different age, locations and ethnicity. Thus, they were selected without bias, so as to get the desired result to generalize the study's findings.

Research Instrument

The instrument for the collection of data was a structured questionnaire, which consists of three (3) sections (A-C)

Section A: (Demographic Factors) This consisted of variables such as Age, Sex, Marital Status, Ethnicity, Religion, Educational Qualification, Work Experience (dichotomized into two i.e. 1-2 years, 3 years and above).

Section B: This section measured perception of risk using 22 items developed by Mann, Burnett, Radford, & Ford, (1997) Some of the items includes''I like to consider all of the alternatives''. ''Whenever I face a difficult decision I feel pessimistic about finding a good solution. ''I prefer to leave decisions to others.'' Participants' response was scored and coded on bipolar format.

Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential analysis were used to analyze the data collected using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21

4. Results and Discussion

The study investigated socio-demographic factors of sex, age, work experience and educational qualification as determinants of perception of risk among security personnel. The first hypothesis that male participants will score significantly higher on the

measures of perception of risk than their female counterparts was tested with t-test for the independent samples and result is presented in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary table of independent sample t-test showing the significant influence of sex on perception of risk

DV	Sex	N	$\overline{X}$	SD	df	t-value	P
Perception of risk	Male	50	19.80	7.06	200	3.552	<.01
	Female	152	15.99	6.48			

Table 1 results shows that risk perception of male respondents was significantly higher than the risk perception of their female counter parts (200) = 3.552; p<.05). However, male participants' recorded a mean score of (19.80) and female participants recorded a mean score of (15.99). This result implied that risk perception of male respondents was significantly higher among the study sample. Therefore, the result confirmed the stated hypothesis and it was accepted in this study.

The second hypothesis that participants who had spent between 1-2 years in the service would score significantly higher on the measures of perception of risk than their counterparts who have spent 3 years and above was tested using the t-test for the independent samples and the result was as presented in tables 2:

Table 2: Summary table of independent sample t-test showing the significant influence of work experience on perception of risk

DV	Work experience	N	$\overline{X}$	SD	df	t-value	P
Perception of risk	1-2 years	156	18.24	6.94	200	5.358	<.01
	3 years and above	46	12.50	3.89			

Table 2 results indicated that perception of risk of participants who have spent between 1-2 years in service was significantly higher than participants who have spent 3 years and above t (200) = 5.358; p<.01). However, participants' who had spent between 1-2 years in service recorded a mean score of (18.24) and participants who had spent 3 years and above recorded a mean score of (12.50). This result implied that the perception of risk of participants who have spent between 1-2 years in service was significantly higher among the study sample. Therefore, the result confirmed the stated hypothesis and it was accepted in this study.

The third hypothesis that age; religion; marital status; educational qualification; year of experience and rank would predict significant joint and independent influence on perception of risk was tested using multiple regressions and the results were presented on table 3:

Table 3: Summary of Multiple Regressions showing the Influence of age, religion, marital status educational qualification year of experience and rank on perception of risk

Variable	R	R^2	F	P	β	t	Sig
Age					.378	4.183	<.01
Marital status	.511	.261	11.467	<.01	-.122	-1.776	>.05
Educational qualification					-.330	-3.841	<.01
Experience					.451	5.678	<.01
Rank					.245	3.506	<.05

Dependent variable: perception of risk

The results in table 3 showed that age, religion, marital status educational qualification year of experience and rank jointly predicted perception of risk among security personnel with private security outfit in Ibadan, ($R = .511$; $R^2 = .261$; $F(5,195) = 11.467$; $P<.01$). This implied that age, marital status educational qualification, year of experience and rank jointly accounted for 26% variance in perception of risk while the remaining 74% could be attributed to other variables not considered in this study. However, the analysis of the independent predictions indicated that age ($\beta = .378$; $t = 4.183$; $P<.01$); educational qualification ($\beta = -.330$; $t = -3.841$; $P<.01$); year of experience ($\beta = .451$; $t = 5.678$; $P<.01$); and rank ($\beta = .245$; $t = 3.506$; $P<.01$) predicted significant independent influence on perception of risk. Therefore, the stated hypothesis was supported by the result obtained and it was accepted in this study.

The first hypothesis which predicted that male participants will score significantly higher on the measures of perception of risk than their female counterparts was accepted. The result showed that male participants perceived risks than their female counterparts. This implies that males in security outfit are more vigilant and have foresight of impending dangers than females. This finding is at variance to earlier studies.Croson& Gneezy, (2009) found that women are indeed more risk averse thanmen.They base their conclusion on anumber of empirical studies that found statistically significant differences between men'sand women's behavior, on average, in lottery experiments or investment strategies—andin fact very similar statements are endemic in the literature.Sex differences on studies of perception of risk are commonlyfound regarding behaviors, such as competitiveness, management styles, labor market, business, and investment success (Eckel& Grossman 2008; Booth & Nolen 2012).The difference in the outcome of thepresent study to the earlier studies was that the present study explorethe cognitive ability of men and women in perception of risk on decision making that involves dangerous situations.

The second hypothesis which predicted that participants that have just spent between 1-2 years in the service will score significantly higher on the measures of perception of risk than their counterparts who have spent 3 years and above was accepted. This result implied thatsecurity personnel thathave just spent between 1-2 years on the job are more conscious of danger inherent in their job than those who had been on the job for quite a number of years. The way individuals perceives risks begin to wane as individuals spend more years on the job. This finding agrees with the study conducted by Miller, (2000) who observed that years of experienced determined perception of risks.

Thethird hypothesis which predicted that age, marital status; educational qualification; years of experience and rank will significantly jointly and independentlypredict perception of risk was accepted. This result implies that age educational qualification, number of years spent on the job andrank significantly jointly and independently predicted perception of risk among the study sample.This finding agrees with the combined findings on both a stable sex difference by Croson&Gneezy; 2009; Booth & Nolen 2012)which revealed that an inverse age-risk taking function existed in both sex. As for age, young males or females take more risks than older males or females, based on which it is proposed and then verified that risk perception will be inversely related to age (Booth & Nolen 2012). As for gender, women are found to be more risk averse than men (Croson&Gneezy2009).

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The following conclusions were drawn as a result of the findings of this study: it was observed that males in security outfit are more vigilant and have foresight of impending dangers than their female counterparts. There was significant difference in job experience of participants on the measures of perception of risk. Security personnel who had just spent few years on the job i.e between 1-2 years on the job tended to be more security conscious, perceived danger inherent in the job than those who had spent more than two years. This showed that as the years spent on the job increases the perception of risk involved in the job begins to wane. Finally, age; marital status; educational qualification; year of experience and rank played major role in perception of risk among the security personnel.

Based on the findings of this study it was imperative that the security outfits invest in improvement of their officers' orientation so as to attain the much needed information about importance of perception of risk. The need for information about perception of risks related training for the private security outfits is evident. Therefore, there is need for training and retraining of security personnel on perception of risk by relevant professionals so as to ensure the security of the security personnel on the job.

6. Limitation of the study

The scope of the study was limited to private security outfits. Another limitation faced by this study is the refusal of some participants who claim they are too busy to fill the questionnaire. Larger sample would be needed for a better research study of this nature in future. Based on the enumerated limitations of the study, any investigator who

wants to replicate this study should endeavour to extend the study to Nigeria Police and other national security outfits. Also there should be increase in the sample size to cater for generalization

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