
EXPLORING EDUCATION IN RESOLVING PEACE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Since the extinction of the security crisis seems impossible, all society needs is a mechanism for security crisis management and control. Security crisis is inevitable because it can originate in individual and group reactions to situations of scarce resources, to the division of function within society and differentiation of power. A society without good security and national peace is a dead society since the security crisis is a reality of human existence. This paper therefore assessed the issues of security in Nigeria because education is the only key to security challenges in society. It further explains education and national peace, the meaning of national security, challenges facing national security, Nigeria's national security, factors of insecurity, causes of insecurity and way forward. However, Exploring Education remains the means of solving security challenges and promoting national peace in Nigeria. Several problems keep occurring in society as a result of insecurity in the country. Problems like kidnapping, weak security system, unemployment, political corruption and many more. These have brought fear to many citizens in the country today. Hence, the paper found that real solution lies in

government accelerating the pace of good education to help curbed insecurity problems and promote national peace in the society.

Keywords: *Peace, National security, Education, Security challenges*

Introduction

The security of a country under whatsoever conception or views remains a major matter of concern to the government, the citizens in the Maslow's pyramids of needs, safety needs which come second situates the importance of security as it classifies that types of security needs which includes personal security, emotional security, financial security, health security and so on (Muyiwa, 2015). Security is a fragile and significant issue which conveys different meanings to scholars, analyst, policy-makers and organizations across the globe. Fundamentally, security has to do with the presence of peace, safety, gladness and the protection of human and physical resources or absence of crisis or threats to human dignity, all of which facilitate development and progress of any human society. Salomon (2002) asserted that regions of relative tranquillity stress education for co-operation and harmony, thereby promoting the idea of a general "culture of peace" whereas region conflicts emphasize "education for violence prevention". Peace education in essence implies efforts to promote peace, especially in conflict or violence, ridden areas through Education. Peace means the absence of conflict or violence at a particular time and place.

Education has a vital role to play in developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that enable people to contribute to and benefit from an inclusive and sustainable future. Learning to form clear and purpose goals, work with others different perspective, find untapped opportunities and identify multiple solutions to big problems will be essential in the coming years. Education needs to aim to do more than prepare young people for the world of work; it needs to equip students with the skills they need to become active, responsible and engaged citizens and engaged citizens. Education policy provides a framework and pathway to the destination where

society wants to take its new generation in the light of its ideology or philosophy of life. The policy has the most vital place in the socio-economic milieu and moral framework of the country. The secular Western countries or the Marxist – oriented countries always try to incorporate and integrate their ideology into their educational system.

National Security as examined in this paper from government perspective connotes the idea of protection of the national treasures and valuables, its territory, citizens from harm, threat or danger of any kind. This paper contends that the citizens of the state and their safety remains a major treasure to the state because they constitute the population which maintains statehood characteristic of any state. Against this background, this paper, therefore, examined the efforts to tackle insecurity for a robust combination of legislative and judicial interventions with government reforms that address some acute human security challenges

Meaning of National Insecurity

The purpose of the state is to ensure secured people for development. The term security has been used to mean protection against or safety from future risk of severe deprivation, injury or death and requires rules, order and impartial adjudication and application. Aggressive and repressive states can be major sources of human insecurity and greater sources of human insecurity and a greater source of human suffering. National security is concerned about those governmental institutions that seek to ensure the physical protection and safety to their citizens, their equal access to the law and protection of from abuse. There are two sets of government systems and institutions concerned with national security. The first component consists of the traditional instruments of national security, namely; the criminal justice system (police, justice and correctional services /prisons) the military and the intelligence community. The second and more important relates to the nature of governance, its institutions and rules, norms and values that underpin it – as well the efficacy thereof (Thomas, 2008).

To overcome insecurity, there is a need for intelligence gathering and surveillance so that law enforcement agents could become

proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near accuracy rather than being reactive. According to Akin (2008), Security is “the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures to the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions’ It is the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threats to their or properties. It embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, group, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrence (Ogunleye, et al, 2011). According to Igbuzor (2011), It demands safety from chronic threats and protection from harmful security, however, can be described as stability and continuity of live hood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from the assurance of knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected on one’s community or neighbourhood and by people around. It focuses on emotional and psychological sense belonging to a social group which can offer one protection). However, because of the very many ways in which insecurity affects human life and existence, the concept of insecurity usually been ascribed different interpretations in association with the various ways which it affects individuals.

Achumba et al (2013) defined insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger to the threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. Some of the common descriptors of insecurity include want of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; want of confidence; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lacking stability; troubled; lack of protection; and unsafe, to mention a few. All of these have been used by different people to define the concept of insecurity. These different descriptors, however, run into a common reference to a state of vulnerability to harm and loss of life, property or live hood.

Beland (2005) defined insecurity as “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection”. It refers to a lack of or inadequate freedom from danger. Given the wide range of risks, the security of a nation-state has several dimensions.

Causes of Insecurity

Many scholars have identified several factors of insecurity in Nigeria, just to discuss a few of them as:

Unemployment Factors: The issue of employment had caused a lot of problem in our country today. Problems like terrorism, kidnapping, fraud, prostitute, yahoo-yahoo, scammer, ritualists, hackers, arm robbing, stealing and so many of them keep occurring every day. Nwagboso (2012) argued that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Political Corruption: Corruption occurs when the actions of individuals, groups or firms in both public and private sectors influence the formation of laws, regulations, decrees, and other government policies to their advantage using the illicit and non-transparent provision of the private benefit of public officials. It has been described as cancer militating against Nigerian’s development because corruption deeply threatens the fabrics of the Nigerian society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013)

Weak Security System: In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations because of lack of expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. This result from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training (Achumba et al 2013)

Ethno Religious Conflict: Ethno religious conflicts was defined as a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society in all parts of Nigeria. It has occurred in places like Sagamu, Lagos Abia, Jos, Taraba, etc. These ethno-religious identifies have become disintegrated and destructive social elements threatening the peace, stability and security in Nigeria (Eme & Onyishi, 2011)

Terrorism: Terrorism is a global phenomenon and it is ravaging the whole world. Terrorism in Nigeria is not a recent phenomenon. Terrorism in Nigeria's has been linked to religious, socio-political, economic, cultural factors. Even though it originated from Islamic fanaticism Dec 1983 during Alhaji Shehu Shagari civilian regime of the second republic which was aborted by a military coup led by General Muhammadu Buhari. Some foreign observers have linked terrorism in Nigeria to several factors which include: political conflicts, unbalanced development that involves horizontal inequalities, religious /ethnic distrust, poor governance linked to leadership failure and high-level corruption (Kufour, 2012; Oluwarotimi, 2012)

Organized Violent Group: Organized violent groups such as secret cults in tertiary institutions contribute to security challenges in Nigeria in different ways. Their emergence has been linked to several factors which include the failure of state and its institutions, eco-disempowerment, a culture of patriarchy, ignorance and poor political consciousness (Eme & Onyishi, 2011)

Factors of Insecurity

There are several insecurity problems in Nigeria today which destroyed so many developments and government plans from existing. Social problems keep increasing on daily basis. People are scared of walking at night, they are scared of reporting criminals, they are scared of saying the truth when they know them, they are scared of interacting with others, they are scared to make friends, they are scared to vote, they are scared to help one another, and they are scared to render help to others. They are scared of so many

things most especially in Nigeria. The situation of Insecurity is getting worst every blessed day.

Nigeria as a sovereign state has witnessed several plethoras of challenges emanating from her internal political environment. The country has been under siege for some years largely due to militancy, and an act of terrorism perpetrated by some individuals against the state. However, the most serious security challenges witnessed in Nigeria include: job crises, Niger Delta crises, Fulani herdsmen, poor economic condition, social injustice, armed robbery, bombing, kidnapping, theft, fraud ritualists problem, assassinations, political instability, economic policy instability, bad governance, institution dysfunction and many more have damaged several lives and properties. Properties well damaged during Endsars 2020, a lot of life was gone without replacement, innocent souls are nowhere to be found, no security at all, people cannot attend churches programmes at night, talk less of walking or strolling very early in the morning. Covid'19 took away many lives as well. We don't have enough equipment to save a life. So many problems keep occurring on security issues. We all need to be educated about this and most especially our Government on how to provide the solution to these problems.

Education and National Insecurity

Education is the only source of human capital formation and producing responsible citizens in the country. Therefore, education has always been the major concern of successive governments in Nigeria since its inception. The progress of a country or a nation depends on quality education. Education is considered as a prerequisite for combating poverty, raising productivity, improving living conditions, protecting the environment and making enlightened citizen (Thomas, 2008). Further, poverty alleviation and integrated human development, universalizing access and quality education, women empowerment and elimination of all forms of discrimination, community mobilization and strengthening the partnership of public and public sectors are the priority goals and commitments of the present government. The vision 2025 provides a balanced educational approach, politically united, economically

sound and prosperous, morally and spiritually elevated nation's programs to meet the 21st century challenges. National Security has figured prominently in academic and political discussions of foreign policy and international politics since the end of World War 11. Education is the basis for development and empowerment for every nation. It plays a vital role in understanding and participating in day to day activities of today's world. It builds one's character and plays a significant role in transmitting one's culture, belief and values to others in society. It helps in creating innovations and meetings the growing needs of every nation. The development of a nation is not measured through the buildings it has built, the roads it has laid down, bridges it has constructed but by the human resources, the nation has developed through a well-defined system of education. Although the physical facilities are usually important because we need to be safe, secured be vigilant at all time. We need to know more about our Environment with the teaching of Citizenship /Social Studies Education which will help us build good relationship towards understanding the people and the Environment which will make us conscious of what we do?, how we do?, what we say?, how say we?, what we learn it?, how can we be secured? and how do we go about it? Various questions will be raised and answered towards providing solution to Insecurity problems in the country. The solutions to it are not only the government but also we as citizens have solutions to these problems too. Education is the best answer because through the teaching of Security Education methodology will be learned towards eradicating it.

Nigeria National Security

More often than not, the usual and most common definition of National security especially in the third world and developing countries such as Nigeria is what the state actors call it. This is what Nicholo Machiavelli stressed out when he said that the end of a leaders act will justify the means. Many states actors' actions most time is crowned as to be in the interest of the Nation. Nigeria's national security is the totality of the maintenance of internal and external peace, the protection of its citizens, treasures, national secret and territory from any form of aggression or threat. National

security is synonymous with the national interest, which emphasizes that the security policy subordinates any other interests to those of the nation Wolfers (1952). As a consequence, the stability of both the domestic and the international system was based on the premise that if state security is maintained, then the security of citizens will naturally follow. The underlying assumption is that the domestic political order here was stable and essentially peaceful.

Challenges Facing National Security

Education has a vital role in developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that enable people to contribute to and benefit from an inclusive and sustainable future. Learning to form clear and purposeful goals, work with others with different perspectives, find untapped opportunities and identify multiple solutions to big problems will be essential in the coming years. Education needs to aim to do more than prepare young people for the world of work; it needs to equip students with the skills they need to become active, responsible and engaged citizens to provide solutions to security problems that we encounter every day of our life. One way of determining the value of the security is to ask what life without it. The most famous answer to this question is that Thomas Hobbes to the effect that life would be solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short. Such reasoning has led many scholars to assert the primacy of the goal of security. The logic underlying this assertion is that security is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of other values such as prosperity, freedom, or whatever. For the first time in 2019, an election was held successful when they always war here and there and most especially security problems and attacking of other candidates. In 2019, Nigeria hold national elections for the first time since a historic, peaceful, democratic transition of power to the opposition in 2015, when incumbent president Good luck Jonathan of the Peoples Democratic Party conceded defeat to Muhammad Buhari of the All Progressive Congress.

Social and economic inequalities, ethnic and religious divisions, and structural weakness, such as corruption and weak state capacity, remain prevalent across Nigerian and contribute to the risk of security violence. At the same time, the government's record in

diminishing the Boko Haram insurgency in the country's northeast has altered expectations of insecurity in that region, even as attacks periodically continue. Paradoxically, diminished insurgent violence may lead to more open political competition, and consequently party-based political violence becoming more common than before. The dimensions of security have not changed with the end of the Cold War. But the substantive specifications of these dimensions that were appropriate during the Cold War are likely to differ from those appropriate for the 1990s. Economic security, environmental security, identity security, social security and military security are different forms of security, not fundamentally different concepts. Changing world circumstances and new issues do not necessarily require new concepts. Voting power, military power, economic power and persuasive power are different forms of the same social phenomenon. I.e. power. The adjectives indicate the differences, while the noun draws attention to the similarities.

Conclusion

Exploring Education for National Peace and Security in Nigeria remains the solutions and key to solving security problems. Following some of the outlined recommendation listed in this work. It will help enhances and provide solutions to security problems in Nigeria. Education also serves as a tool to these problems through security education programmes, Peace Education courses in Nigeria. The government should give more attention to the issues of security and provide a solution that will help promote National Peace in the Society without Fear. Hence, the paper was able to list some of the problems and also provide a recommendation including good governance, elimination of corruption and entrenchment of justice, job opportunities for youths, more of employment for citizens and equipment of security agencies /training /seminars/ programmes and so on

Way Forward

Education is the single greatest tool for achieving social justice and equality. Inclusive and equitable education. While indeed goal in its own right is also critical to achieving an inclusive and equitable

society in which every citizen has the opportunity to dream, thrive and contribute to the nation. Children and youth in Nigeria must be equipped with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values as well employable skills that would enable them to contribute to the social, economic, political transformation and security problems in Nigeria through good Education. The teaching of Peace Education will help National Peace in Nigeria. Highest priority is accorded to the task of ensuring universal access to an education of high quality and breadth that would support Nigeria's continued ascent, progress, and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic development, social justice and equality environmental problems and security problems. There is the need to modernize the security agencies through capacity building in advanced training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivation and changes of orientation. This will enhance the operational capabilities of the security challenges and other threats. There should equally be a complete overhaul of the security institutions in Nigeria to reflect international standards of best practices to preempt security breaches. The consistent pattern of post damage responses to national security is as a result of dearth. Security should be everybody's business, individuals should cultivate the habit of security consciousness and report any security situation to the appropriate authority (not only the police) immediately. Every individual should develop a high level of security awareness and alertness since they understand their communities better. Any report of suspicious behaviour or activity could lead to actionable intelligence hence disruption of attacks.

The Nigerian government has introduced the use of Computer-based Closed Circuit television (CCTV) cameras in public places in Abuja and many more, to monitor and record events that take place in a particular location. Ogunleye in Achunba et al (2013) have argued for it be effective, the government should ensure that these cameras are properly managed and maintained, ensure proper recording, with good quality images and incident records on cameras should be followed by the police or appropriate authority. To improve the standard of security nationwide and reduce duplication, the federal government should consider reintroducing the constitutional

amendment to abolish state security laws, commissions and to vest responsibility for all security management. To improve coordination among security agencies, both the police and other security agencies should be more effective use state-level mechanisms to address security concerns. The government should include the teaching of Security Education in the curriculum and also a course to study. Seminars and conferences should be done on it. Orientation should be given to all agencies through social media and other means of communication with the society at large. The need for effective enforcement by the police, soldiers and other security agencies is very important. None of this will be possible without passionate and committed school teachers and faculty in higher education institutions who will take charge of transforming the education system as envisioned in building security policy.

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