

## CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ON EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

PATIENCE O. EMESIOBI

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION

RUMUOLUMENI, PORT HARCOURT

RIVERS STATE

### Abstract

Insecurity which comprises the activities of kidnappers, banditry, Fulani herdsmen, unknown gunmen and other crimes of different kinds have been a challenge to educational system in Nigeria especially in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, different measures have been taken to tackle this hydra-headed menace but all to no avail. The study x-rayed the concept of insecurity, its effect on educational programs, its relationship with good governance, and measures to combat insecurity in Nigeria. The study concluded that the inability of the federal government of Nigeria to effectively respond to the challenge of insecurity via good governance has posed a negative influence on educational system in the country. The study therefore, recommends that the government should provide adequate security measures in all learning institutions across the country in order to secure the lives in the world of education.

Keywords: Education, Insecurity, good governance.

### Introduction

From the view of Onyebueke (2014), education is seen as the aggregate of all the processes by which a child or an adult develops some abilities, form attitudes and other forms of behavior which are of positive value to the society in which he lives. This view describes education as the totality of what makes an individual to be resourceful in the society. This idea is in line with that of Victor – Ishikaku (2016) who reported that the purpose of education is basically for the upbringing of the young in the society to make them functional and useful to themselves and the society.

Amie – Ogan & Amie Ogan (2015) described education as a tool for a nation's industrialization and all round development that aids individuals to become active participants in their society through its rudiments of character molding, training, respect for elders, spatial skills, language skills, vocational skills, psychological, emotional and intellectual development.

This suggests that education is a mechanism for all round development of an individual. It should therefore, not be interrupted by any negative occurrence in the society. Insecurity posed by different notorious gangs in different parts of Nigeria has created an indelible mark in the field education. Farooq (2012) concurs that education is a process in which and by which the knowledge, characters and behavior of human beings are shaped and molded. This view considers education as a source of knowledge and character formation. Nwosu (2018) asserts that education is the impartation of knowledge from one individual or group of persons to another. This idea confirms that education is an in-depth acquisition and transfer of knowledge from one generation to another.

The fact that education determines the development of any nation is a confirmation of the work carried out by Ewart, Isah and Fabunmi (2008) which discovered that "education is the bedrock

of any society; no society can grow beyond its level of educational realization". Generally education has always been seen as a 'common good' for securing a nation's future, human capital development, civic order and economic development. Education is a veritable tool for national development and growth. No nation can survive even in the face of booming economy without functional education. Education rejuvenates a falling nation from collapsing through production of specialized manpower to boost the economy. Today, India is prosperous because of the product of forceful educational pursuit introduced by their leaders.

In recent times, the spate of insecurity in Nigeria has hindered exponential growth in education ranging from the activities of kidnappers to that of Boko Haram, Banditry, Unknown gunmen and the Fulani herdsmen. The grave effect of these groups has remained a distraction in the field of education which is the nation's hope for intellectual nourishment. The activities of different notorious groups have brought in a disturbing atmosphere in different parts of Nigeria, making educational programs unstable and keeping learning institutions in an unrest situation. As noted recently, in Niger Delta, there was an ugly situations where schools were forcefully closed down due to incessant cult clashes and other gang-related wars. These have been disruptive to education in different states in Nigeria. Its direct impact on students, staff and the entire educational systems is alarming Ewetan (2013).

The menace of insecurity has posed severe threats to socio-economic development in the country in that it suppresses business and economic activities and discourages local and foreign investors

Ewetan & Urhie, (2014). This unfortunate scenario has created negative consequences in educational systems in the country.

### **Concept of Insecurity**

The word insecurity" has varieties of connotations. It signifies danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. Achumba, Ighomeroho, Akpor (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or 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 emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. People engaged in business activity, either directly or indirectly, to satisfy unlimited human wants. Therefore, business has become part and parcel of human existence in particular and the world in general. Williams (2008) describes security from the socio-political perspective opines that security involves the capacity to pursue cherished political and social ambitions. That is security is socio-political in nature as without security there can be no political stability and consequently social activities will be in chaos.

The theory explains the Security challenges in Nigerian. It proposes that security largely depends on encouraging liberal institutions to discharge their responsibilities creditably; and a security policy must have as its long-term spread of

liberalism. Therefore, the route to peace is to encourage democratic system, the universal respect for human rights and the development of civil society. But such conclusion depends on an untroubled and robust correlation between the democratic nature of a state and peaceful inclination. Thus, the democratic peace theory assumes that liberal states do not fight wars against other liberal states. Rapid industrialization is very vital to modern economic growth and development. The level of industrial performance reflects the ability of any economy to utilize its resources, its level of technological and managerial development to enhance the standard of living of its citizens. The term "industrialization" originated from the industrial revolution of 18th and 19th century in Europe. Industrialization describes an increase in the share of manufacturing in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and in the occupations of the economically active population. It could also be used to explain the development of economic activity in relatively large industry, Nnabuife, Okeke, and Ndubuisi-Okolo (2018). Industrial development is one of the best training grounds for skill acquisition/development, and it can increase the flexibility of the economy and reduce dependence on external forces. Industrial development provides employment, foreign exchange, and domestic earnings.

According to Ali (2013) the fear of insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase and this has been compounded by the rising waves of terrorism such as the activities of ISWAP, Boko Haram, Unknown gunmen since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. Insecurity challenges can be traced from the early years of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the

military during and after the Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hand of the civilians. Soon after the civil war these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery but the issue of killing of innocent citizens was scarcely noticed. There was also the army of unemployed youths some of whom lost their job during the civil war. The level of insecurity assumed dangerous dimensions in the prolonged years of military rule beginning from 1970 during which people procure arms and light weapons for personal defense. Some of these arms and light weapons got into the hands of unemployed youths who used them for deviant purpose. While some researchers attribute youth violence to peer group influence and other psychological factors associated with growing up, others emphasized the impact of political and economic factors such as ethnic agitation, political agitation, unemployment, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) as triggers of violent reaction among the youth.

### **Concept of Good Governance**

Literally, governance means the action and manner of governing a state or an organization. Carlson et al (1995) in Hufty M. (2011), defined governance as the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and cooperative action may include formal institutions and regimes empowered to enforce compliance, as well as informal arrangements that people and institutions either have agreed or perceive to be in their interest. Good governance has been defined in accordance with some situations

and factors. For Downer (2000) defined good governance as “competent management of public resources and affairs in a way that is open, transparent, accountable, equitable and responsive to the people’s needs” to him good governance means openness or transparency in leadership and way of meeting the needs of people under his leadership. The definition is all about managing public affairs as permissible to the governed. In pursuit of ensuring good governance, Hinkel (2002), stipulated that good governance has to be based on “the formation and stewardship of the formal and informal rules that regulate the public realm, it is the field of agitation between the state and civil society in order to make wise and acceptable decisions.

Nwofia (2011) defined good governance in relation to democracy, posited that it “is rooted in true democracy and promotes the primacy of the rule of law, good institutions, broad-based economic growth, human and environmental capital development” and equally “based on the principles of legitimacy and voice in decision making, visionary, responsive and effective leadership and equity”. In democratic setting, he upholds that equal representation, “effective legal system based on the primacy of the rule of law, transparency, public and corporate accountability and participatory approach to service delivery” Nwofia (2011) added that, accountability commonly characterize good governance. For Nwofia, democracy observed under the tenets of rule of law coupled with strong socio-political institutions is the bedrock and facilitator of good governance without which it is practically unattainable. In the same vein, Wroe and Doney (2003), agrees that good

governance and peace and security work complementarily as they are the bedrock for the assurance of an equitable democratic atmosphere, opportunities to self-development, safety and environment for good rewarding, for self-creativity and hard work. In conclusion good governance plays an adequate role in upholding the safety and peaceful co-existence of the people governed.

### **Relationship between Insecurity and Good Governance**

According to Oluwarotimi (2012), good governance is the panacea for the insecurity challenge in Nigeria. She stated that the war against insecurity would be won only by raising governance standard that is, generating the idea of the good governance within the three tiers of government. A situation where the governing council is responsible and accountable to the people under their leadership will be a good thing. Following her view, security engagement cannot be separated from good governance. However, she added that good governance is a function of effective, visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership whose driving force should be directed towards adequate wellbeing of the citizens and human development programs. Good governance is the only way to win the war against insecurity in Nigeria no matter the level animation the country many acquire without good governance the negative influence on insecurity cannot be subdued while good governance is central to the effective administration of state resources, the rule of law, the creation of functional private sector and the development of a strong civil society.

Nigeria lacks well-functioning government, armed forces and security

services due to wide spread corruption. What promotes insecurity and its resultant effect is underlying structural causes of weakness in governance such as nepotism, corruption and all of which impedes the prospects of significant gains in broad based institution building and development. Two key drivers of these weaknesses in governance are direct foreign influence adoption of borrowed dysfunctional political ideologies. Over the past decades, underlines the extent to which complacency towards security has facilitated the deepening of its root in the country. Also, the data reveals how the fragile approach to mitigating this national tragedy has resulted in dragging government attention from such foundational national project such as education. Every year, billions of naira is devoted to fighting security at the detriment of other sectors which are gradually lagging behind if compared to development in these sectors across the globe.

Thus, the sorrowful state of education in Nigeria is fast becoming a state of embarrassment, explicitly reverting to crude methods as repeated threat to its smooth functioning has not allowed improvement in new areas, methodologies, etc. in a highly technological and competitive intellectual world. This ugly development is constantly being promoted by improved mechanism by terrorist groups and agencies to infiltrate schools and cart away hundreds of students without any reaction from the nation's security agents. The implication of this, to education will continue to devalue education and local demographic pressures will continue to favour violence and the deepening of crises in Nigeria.

### **Impacts of Insecurity and Good Governance to Education**

Given the interface between insecurity and governance in respect to education, one expects thinkers, critics and social commentators to critically examine how these dual factors have impacted on education in Nigeria. Available studies have looked mainly at the impacts of insecurity on education in Nigeria but studies on the impacts of insecurity and governance on education in Nigeria is relatively lean. It is against this backdrop that this study aims to examine the challenge of insecurity and good governance on education in Nigeria. It is hoped that this study will spur Institutions of government, corporate organizations, academics and policy makers to devise appropriate steps to facilitating government intervention in cases of insecurity beyond the on-the-news programmed surveillance and investigation of criminal related offences by pragmatically heightening physical security measures around the country in order to deter or disrupt potential attacks. This study will thus examine the relationship between education and insecurity in Nigeria and the role of government in mitigating insecurity in Nigeria.

### **Challenges of Insecurity to Education**

Insecurity poses some adverse effects on education. Schooling in Nigeria is as risky as a man in lion's den where the lion can devour at will, an average Nigeria child attends school with fear of uncertainty there is no inward peace amongst the students and staff because no one can predict their visitation since school children are their target.

It hampers sponsorship of students as most parents have either lost their jobs and homes and therefore relocated for

safety reasons.

Resources that should have been used for educational issues will be diverted to national security by the federal government. This encourages less attention for educational sector in budget allocation.

Insecurity poses problems such as set back in educational pursuit, for instance student attacked by kidnappers may be taken away from school for a term or session.

Insecurity causes death: some students have lost their lives due to the activities of the kidnappers, Boko Haram, Banditry and other notorious groups terrorizing schools.

Insecurity causes total loss of children: some children who left home to school are now nowhere to be found because they fell victim of one of these notorious groups.

**Table 1: Few Recent Cases of Insecurity in Different Schools in Nigerian Schools**

S/no.	Date	State	No. of students	School
1.	Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup> 2020	Kankara Katsina	344 male student	Government Science Secondary School Kankara, Katsina State
2.	Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup> 2000	Kaduna State	80 pupils	Ishamiyya Primary Mahuta Kaduna
3.	Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Niger State	27 students	Government Secondary School, Kagara Niger State
4.	Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Zamfara state	279 female students	Government Secondary School Zangebe Zamfara
5.	March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Kaduna State	39 students	Federal College of Forestry Mechanization Afake Kaduna State
6.	March 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Kaduna State	23 students	Greenfield University of Agriculture Kaduna State.
7.	April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Benue State	3 students	Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State.

**Source:** www.thecable.ng The Chronicles of School Abduction

### **Remedy for Insecurity in Nigeria**

- **Proper Leadership Training:** Emesiobi, (2019) opined that Nigerians, should train up their children and youths in the way they will be socially, economically and physically beneficial to themselves and to the country. In other words, it is imperative that we have leaders who are adequately trained to live harmoniously with others and rule with qualities that will promote security and development in the country. The process of developing visionary

leadership can be challenging, that is the challenge of good governance but however, it can be conquered as Kufour (2012) suggests, "by using institutions of the Nigerian constitution as a nursery ground to produce leaders with national outlook and with a missionary zeal to transform the nation". Proper leadership training will also extend to children training. It is obvious trained parents will produce trained children. Then the nation will be a country of trained people.

- **Socio-economic Development:** Socio-economic development can be perceived as the central focus for security in Nigeria. In the view of Kufour (2012), the challenge in solving the insecurity problem in Nigeria is to accelerate the pace of development to create employment for the unemployed, provide scholarship skills for youths and create functional business organizations to improve the economy of the nation. Knowing that an idle mind is the devil's workshop, the youths should be occupied with meaningful activities to be kept away from negative activities.

- **Equipping the Country with Adequate Security Gadgets:** According to Emesiobi (2019), adequate security gadgets are necessary to tackle the insecurity problem in the country considering the issue of Boko Haram that has lasted for years, the Fulani Herds men, the banditry, the unknown gunmen and the issue of kidnapping. All these can be tackled with, if adequate security gadgets will be put in place. From the views of Oluwarotimi, (2012) who supported that all inclusive combination of methods that would not only break their communication and interactive network, but also disarm them of resources by tracking their information inflow and resource mobility through higher technology that can also help to locate their base, their sponsors and intelligence power houses and systems (intelligence sources), identifying and isolating them for easy pick. This idea will go a long way to disorganizes all the notorious groups.

### **Conclusions**

The country's educational system remains the basis for societal transformation. Security education, if adopted fully into Nigerian curriculum will bring about national security and peaceful

coexistence among Nigerian citizenry. For this purpose, immediate attention should be given to peace and security education in all levels of education in order to imbue skills, values, attitude and deep knowledge of security strategies in 21<sup>st</sup> century children and youths. Insecurity has disorganized educational programmes in different schools therefore should battle with human technological and intelligence sources in order to sustain the goals of education in Nigeria. While the high level of insecurity in Nigeria is associated with numerous factors, the most damaging is poor governance. Security challenges are felt most in the educational sector. It results in the alteration of school calendar, closure of schools thereby weakening the nation's manpower, discourages further enrollment into schools, especially where government has remained insensitive to the plights of a team of unemployed graduates, artisans and craft men, promote cut short attitude and encourage insecurity itself.

From the foregoing, it suffices that there is a correlation between governance and insecurity. Thus, it is salient to state that while insecurity in Nigeria adversely affects its educational sector, the government has shown relatively lip service to providing security for schools in Nigeria. The Nigerian government should therefore provide adequate security measures in schools across the nation; develop a legal and security clinic in schools to teach and guide students student's on the legal and moral implications of crimes; equip schools with adequate teaching and learning facilities to enhance transfer of adequate knowledge of security education, provide technological devices to promote policing and tracking criminals and provide schools with modern and functional security gadgets for surveillance purposes.

## Recommendations

Education is an instrument for societal and national transformation; to this end, security education should be treated adequately by the three tiers of government create solid awareness of the importance of security in the country. Parents and guidance should imbue the habit of peaceful coexistence in their children so that they will grow and live by it. The military authorities should be fully equipped to secure schools and maintain safety in the school environment. The government should provide avenue to enrich the minds of children and youths with peace and security education to promote peaceful co-existence in the nation.

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