INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

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Abstract

The basic thrust of this paper is centred on insecurity and its adverse implications in Nigerian educational sector. The paper addressed the following objectives; access the relationship between misgovernance and insecurity in Nigeria, establish the relationship between governance and insecurity, identify the nature and activities of insecurity, identify the consequences of insecurity on education in Nigeria. The study adopted the group theory as theoretical framework and the qualitative research analysis method. This made the researchers to have critical observations, case studies amongst others. The major finding include the following; poor governance resulted to insecurity. Insecurity arose from poor education etc. the study concluded that poor governance (democratic practice) has done terrible and incalculable damage to the educational sector of the country. It was recommended that good governance is the panacea to better education in other to reduce insecurity in the country. Good measures and models should be introduced to enhance quality education. Leaders should show good example that will promote good governance and prevent insecurity.

***Keywords**; education; insecurity, implications, governance.*

Introduction

Never in the history of this country has Nigerians suffered this terrible setback she has been experiencing for some time now. Apart from the Nigeria civil war of 1967-1970 that subjected the country to an unprecedented degree of carnage and hostility, it has never been this bad. The periods of kidnapping, robbery, herdsmen unending attacks amongst many have exposed this country to a terrible agony of misplaced confidence. The situation Under the guise of our leaders have made it seem as if though the security agents have lost control of the situation .Service Chiefs have been changed repeatedly by both the immediate past president and the present, President Muhammadu Buhari and President Ahmed Bola Tinibu. The essence of this inevitable changes was to deal with the problem of insecurity. Unfortunately, the situation has remained unabated. A very painful and regrettable situation that made many to

wonder in astonishment and to begin to ask questions in other to know what would have necessitated this ugly trend such that things are increasingly and uncontrollably getting out of hand on daily basis,. Zimako(2009), observed that "could it be traceable to the failure of thinking, collapse of reasoning, shortage of common sense, lack of wisdom or abandoned values? The researchers are emotionally disturb over the state of affairs in the country. This is obviously because it has brought the education industry to a State of quagmire and unending frustration. We are all living witnesses to students kidnap from different schools starting from Chibok in April 14, 2014, the Dapchi kidnap. Teachers, Reverend fathers, Police officers, Armies, and many more are not spared. The list is endless. Students are now afraid to go to school. For parents that have the resources to send their children to school abroad, have done that without hesitation. How can progress be made in an atmosphere that is charged with the burning desire to do evil and create havocs? There is hardly a day that passes without one unpleasant story or the other.

A critical observation to any discerning and patriotic mind revealed that the whole shenanigan is not unconnected to bad governance and poor value system. When the wrong person in the name of election is elected into power by some dubious means, the end result is what we are currently contending with. According to Alapiki(2010), " in the era proceeding independence and mainly in the Post independence era there is enough evidence to support the argument that electoral behavior in Nigeria was not yielded by ideology party programme or quality of candidates are forged or fraudulently issued to undeserving persons, such persons constitute qualitative risk to the society (Tell,2002).

It is against this background that the paper is set to interrogate the seemingly protracted havoc done to the educational industry arising from misgovernance that has found its bearing on the dilapidated educational system in the country. Although, the situation cuts across the country but it appears to have a terrible impact in the north as pupils were seen practically sitting on blocks and sometimes on bare floor to learn. According to Ikelegbe (2016,) political leadership has been characterized by misrule, abuse, corruption, personalization, mismanagement, authoritarianism, repression, insensitivity, arrogance and conflicts.

Conceptual Classifications

Education; Education implies the process of learning through formal and informal means. According to Whawo (2000) ,"

education is an instrument of change.The education received by students change their attitudes to life and fellow human beings". Flowing from the above, Nwuzor and Ocho (1982) sees education as a process when defined as something "established by a society to assist the young understand the heritage of the past, to participate productively in the society of the present and to contribute to the future". Education is seen as a process through which one learns or acquires new knowledge, skill or attitude. This would be impossible if one did not go through education (Abamba,2005)

Insecurity: This connotes some degree of fear, worry over threat to life and property. It implies situation of anxiety and discomfort. According to Oviasuyi (2021), "insecurity is a feeling of uncertainty, a lack of confidence or anxiety about yourself. It can also be described as the state of being open to danger or threat. Insecurity of lives have very adversely reduced the life span of the people and brought untold hardship to the citizens of this country with the displacement of some people, particularly in the northern region of the country. (Okonkwo & Davis 2015).

Governance: Governance implies the art of effective leadership. It connotes the practice of directing the affairs of a people to a peaceful and successful end. It entails giving peaceful harmonious living to people by a set of leaders or leader. According to Davis (2022), "governance is germane to good living, development, national integration among others. It is a precondition for peaceful co-existence, tolerance ,stability and it enhances equitable distribution of wealth amongst the citizens of an existing country.

Implications: This implies the effect something on another thing. For instance, the discussion under review, the researchers are interested in knowing the implications of insecurity on our educational sector in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Insecurity has become a very big threat to the peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. People of different magnitude have become victims of kidnapping, armed robbery, herders attacks and other social vices. In an attempt to unravel the cause of this unending and disturbing carnage intellectuals of different pundits have advanced different causes as to what is responsible for this terrible national disturbances. Some have pronounced that the absence of job opportunities is responsible. Others have said that the effect of drugs have pushed some of these blood thirsty individuals into the act. For instance, as alleged by Ugali (2020), most of the victims of terrorists actions are the same downtrodden, wretched, unemployed,

peasants and middle class elements rather than the wealth of capitalist oppressors except in rare cases like plane hijack or terror-inspired plane crash or bombing.

Again, Abari and Welldone (2022), identified the herders farmers conflict in Nigeria as essentially a conflict between two occupational groupings who are often in contest for scarce resources. The list or causes is endless. So, the degree of violence arising from the aforementioned cases and challenges have necessitated the development of this topic and to possibly see how solutions borne of altruistic motive can be found. The various reasons advanced by the aforementioned scholars no doubt are possible reasons for these unpleasant developments. Effort is however going to be made in this paper to interrogate some other causes that could have led us to this quagmire. The idea is to fill the gap in Literature and come up with solution that can help place the nation, particularly the educational sector this insecurity has adversely affected.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the paper is to examine the effect of insecurity on the educational sector of the country.

The specific objectives are;

1. Assess the relationship between mis governance and insecurity in Nigeria.
2. Establish relationship between governance and insecurity.
3. Identify the nature and activities of insecurity.
4. Identify the consequences of insecurity on education in Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between mis governance and insecurity?
2. What is the relationship between governance and insecurity.
3. What is the nature and activities of insecurity in Nigeria?
4. What are the consequences of insecurity in Nigeria educations.

Methodology

Data collection for this study was primarily from secondary sources. The sources are journals, books, documentaries, internet, magazines,

newspapers. The method of analysis adopted was qualitative, analytical, conceptual and historical.

Theoretical Framework

Although there are many relevant theories that suits the topic, but the group theory is the most suitable. The proponents of this theory are David Truman ,Arthur Benthley amongst others. The group theory according to Oronsaye (1996), "Contends that public policy emanates from group struggle based on compromise." The point to note here is that there is consistent struggle among the policy makers on the sustainability and implementations of the policy. By implication, the struggle of this policy success may favour the dominant group at the end of the day without necessarily reflecting the interest of the general public . It is an interest that is skewed torward the direction and endeavor of a segment of the group.

Unfortunately, this is how it affects any programme such policy is targeted. This same thing applies to the education sector that appear to have suffered a terrible mishap or retrogression in the hands of such policy makers. A situation where the effects of insecurity would have affected the school and money is released by government to do the needful. More often than not the money goes into the hands of the dominant group of this theory for personal use. According to Enaruna (1996), "a group is formed when several individuals share common interest and combine their efforts in regular support of activities which are expected to protect or promote that interest " So, the interest of the general public suffers at the expense of a dominant group and this appears to be the scenario everywhere you go. Politics of self interest without the slightest consideration for a society that is even the target of such policy. Education infrastructure, health amongst other echelons of development have suffered losses because of the dominant nature of this policy.

Literature Review

Insecurity in Nigeria have become a very serious threat to Nigeria peaceful and harmonious co-existence. This social stigma has stigmatized apparently almost all facets and sections of the country. There is virtually no section of the country that is free from this terrible affliction. Consequently, it has rendered the Nigerian economy comatose and redundant as most businesses have been closed down. Farmers can no longer assess their farms, churches can no longer hold night vigil. Students cannot go to school without the fear of being kidnapped. In the South South it is almost becoming a norm for the sit at home order to be respected by everybody

including the government. Those who violated this order have severely paid the price for it, either by death or injury that will forever remind them of such disobedience.

Arising from the above, many people in Nigeria now see the need to leave the country to a comparatively better place to stay since development cannot take place in a country besieged with security challenges. As Ndowa (2019), will say "for effective leadership to thrive in Nigeria we must end the pseudo democratic pretentious that impoverish the citizens and enrich the elite class". No doubt, leadership tussle in Nigeria is a predominant factor that has migrated the unpleasant situation that is currently affecting the pace of development .Life has become has become so terribly unbearable and meaningless. The insecurity that appear not to be ending soon has persistently scared parents, investors and patriotic individuals. The desire to establish one form of business or the other in Nigeria has become an illusion.

Subscribing to Zimako (2009) postulation," there is therefore a new challenge for African nations, particularly Nigeria to re- examine and reorder their practice of democracy, redefine their external relations and attach value to the cultivation of good national image. A good reputation, according to biblical injunction, is better than silver and gold". In northern part of Nigeria for instance, some schools and churches are permanently shut down, obviously because of security threats. The level of insecurity in Nigeria has not only threatened the peaceful co-existence of the country but it has equally done terrible and incalculable damages to the growth and national development as well as educational development of the country. There were cases of students that were kidnapped in different parts of the country in the time past . Chibok girls kidnap in April 14,2014 is a case in point. The Dapchi kidnap is another case among too many to mention. Forest (2012), acknowledge that Boko Haram has carried out several attacks on national security and public institutions, Schools, Markets, Churches and Mosque, telecommunication equipment, International institutions in Abuja.

Corroborating the above, Ekekwe (2015,p.5) Opined that " the situation especially in Nigeria, speaks to us of disappointed hopes and squandered opportunities and of a state that has been tottering on the edge of a cliff".

Until the leaders of the country are sincerely and genuinely ready to embrace the challenges of the country, insecurity will continue to be an issue to contend with both at the national and state levels.

The impact of insecurity on Nigeria education. No doubt the impact has been very terrible and monumental. Security challenges have forced both nationals and neighbouring countries to flee Nigeria because of the unending problems it has created for people. Many have lost their lives. Many are yet to recover from the trauma.

In a similar vein, even those in government are not safe as they are sometime being waylaid on the way by daring bandits, Reverend fathers, Multinational firms experts, journalists, amongst others have been kidnapped. Nigeria according to Alapiki (2015), "is a state where thuggery and gangsterism have become attractive ways of life. In a society such as this people are made to believe that life is war; it is a case of survival of the fittest, and in the jungle of politics, only the strong survives. This has been the situation in stagnating the development process for which educational institutions are part of. Other institutions of government are not spared from this brigandage.

Identified Gaps in the Literature

It is imperative to always acknowledge that the importance of Literature review is to find out whether research questions that were initially raised in the study have been addressed. It is necessary to say that the questions have not been addressed. The empirical and theoretical studies examined revealed that the different works addressing the issues of insecurity regarding its causes still exist.

Again, some of the scholars did not address the problem of misgovernance as it relates to how to manage the problem of governance as if though it was actually caused by religious intolerance, corruption and social factors. Very importantly, these scholars failed to argue that years of poor governance resulting to insecurity and unending crisis in the midst of monumental resources. Virtually all sections of the country is having one challenge or the other.

Furthermore, scholars equally failed to effectively examine how insecurity can be tackled in Nigeria. Atleast to enable the educational sector function effectively. There is need to wake up with better policies and good governance by the political class which they fail to do most times.

Discussions and Findings

Perhaps a detailed situation of the analysis may be clearer where cases of pitiable pictures of individuals in different parts of the country where insecurity has done a lot of damages, are shown below.

Below are some obvious cases that will serve as a guide in this study.

Pictorial representation of insecurity in Nigeria

Fig I:





Source: Economic Confidential (April, 2020) **Source:** The Nations Newspaper Dec, 2021)

Fig II:





Source: Business Day CEO forum (April 2021) **Source**: Nigeria Security Digest (Nov, 2020)

The diagrams above is clear indication of a nation in crisis over poor governance resulting in insecurity and property. There is hardly any section of the Nigeria state that is free from this brigandage. The carrying of one object or the other is a sign of rebellion arising from persons who feel aggrieved with a system that is titled towards a class of persons who wants to survive at the expose of the generality of the public. Worse, is the fact that the educational industry has become terribly affected. Consequently, the performance in education across the country appear abysmally very low.

Conclusion

Arising from the discussion, it becomes pertinent to conclude that the retrogression of the Nigerian state is virtually in all areas of human endeavor with much emphasis on the educational sector that can only be traceable to the unending insecurity in Nigeria. The economy made education almost a worthless venture to consider as a career. This is obviously because students lives are no longer guaranteed as many have lost their lives, kidnapped, maimed and even raped. Therefore, the desire to take interest in education is dead. Go to some schools in the federation, its structures leaves much to be desired. Some of the students and pupils practically sit on the bare floor to learn. Again schools with obvious and terrible challenges that require immediate attention often time gets poor attention from representatives of government because of corrupt practices. Money embarked for such ventures go into the hands of corrupt and unpatriotic Nigerians. Consequently, such project becomes an abandoned one. According to Ekekwe, (2009), to appreciate even faintly how true this is, one can look at many instances of politicians and contractors who are given projects that would have be of benefit to their people, but they do not execute these projects, preferring to pocket the money and move on ". Corroborating the above, Ikelegbe (2016), opined that " the state has failed to provide for the security, welfare and needs of her citizenry. It has been unable to satisfy demands, hopes and aspirations and to respond correctly to the problems and living conditions of her people . So, for the educational sector that have suffered terrible set backs to be restored, governmental functionaries, leaders, patriotic minds must rise up with sincerity of purpose to salvage the situation.

Recommendations

In the light of the above, the following are recommended as the way forward out of the problem of insecurity.

1. There should be good governance.

2. Leaders as well as school heads should be patriotic enough to carry out school functions that will have positive effects on the students.

3. Concerted efforts should be made to discourage corrupt practices.

4. Learning environments should be such that will encourage learning.

5. Rewards should be adequately provided to people who take the risk of fighting corruption and security problems .

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