

THE PROFICIENCY OF SOCIAL STUDIES IN REVITALIZING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOR A SUSTAINABLE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The relevance of Social Studies in educational modernism and inventiveness in a depressed and incurred economy system cannot be lay aside. In line with this, Social Studies Education has the proficiency to deliver the structure for educational modernism and inventiveness especially in the present state of insecurity. It was further argued that regardless of the impact of other disciplines in the security and educational system in Nigeria, the deployment and solicitation of its idea has not been related to the depressed and insecure economy system and education faced in Nigeria. This on the other hand, affects everyone; however Social Studies is the type of education relevant in deciphering the problem of a depressed and insecure economy and educational system for a sustainable security and economic development. The rationale behind this was to highlight the proficiency in Social Studies in revitalizing the educational system for a sustainable and economic development. The study adopted content analysis in its exploration using secondary data related to the subject-matter. The Social Studies content is a response to revitalizing education for sustainable security and economic development of which a depressed economy and insecurity faced also in the education system was an issue of serious concern. Social Studies teaches the need to improve on one's education and challenges of insecurity and poor educational system where

there is the experience of incompetency, inadequacy and lack in society. Findings from the study also indicate that Social Studies contributes to developing good quality governance and value system in the society. Acquaintance to Social Studies education introduces the individual to the desirable knowledge which are cherished in society. The paper concluded that unless there is regular and constant educational awarenesson revitalizing education for sustainable security and economic development, there will be a consistent economydepression and insecure education system resulting in poor governance, corruption and outright neglect of constitutional prohibitions. Nonetheless, it was recommended that social studies education should be enforced in all levelsand subsequent implementation should be enhanced by government to achieve pursue of balance system of operation in all ramification.

Key Words: Social Studies, Social Studies Education, Revitalization, Security, Economic Development.

Introduction

The increase of insecurity in Nigeria states and the nation at large is becoming too alarming. Nigeria tagged as a nation is experiencing serious problem and this has put the nation in a doom. Though the breakout of insecurity is a sickness that affect other parts of the world but in this paper our concern is specifically Nigeria.

Almost everybody, including those who had bodyguard around them are not left behind the garment of fear therefore not knowing who will be the next victim. In spite the money gunned toward the security of our nation to help facilitate and curb insecurity yet, nothing to write home about. A look at social media, newspapers, television and radio broadcasting has unveil our state of insecurity leading to kidnapping, armed robbery, Boko Haram, terrorism, bombing, extra judicial killing to mention but few.

Since the leadership of Nigerian government have been able to tackle these numerous security problems, there is now the need to approach these challenges from social studies perspective.

The situation of Security in Nigeria so far

First on the list of the security challenges in Nigeria is the militant Islamic bunch popularly called “Boko Haram” This group activities began since 2009 and many people have been killed, tens of thousands and still counting, more than two and half million others have been rendered homeless (Njoku, 2019).

Another major side of the security challenges confronting Nigeria right now is the farmers and herders clashes. The middle belt area is worst hit and this has caused fierce conflicts and frictions between the preponderantly Christian farmers and the predominantly Muslim Fulani cattle herders. At the bottom of the fierce battles and conflicts are controversies over right to and ownership of the land and water supply. The fast encroachment of the Sahara desert inland has also affected the feeding/rearing pattern of the cattle, even though these conflicts are not essentially recent, but there have been an inconceivably increase since 2015, the conflicts have become very rampant and violent too. Njoku (2019) reported that in the year 2018, the number of people killed due to farmers and herders clashes was over two thousand (2000) this number is more than those of killings in 2016 and 2017 put together. The conflict according to Njoku has claimed an estimated six times the number of deaths induced by Boko Haram attacks. The farmers and herders crisis have not only lead to insecurities but also caused a deep division in Nigeria politically, ethnically and religiously.

The other aspect of the Fulani herders' crisis is the attacks on our highways and institutions through unnecessary killings and kidnappings almost every day as reported in the news. These attacks that began in the northern region of the country have slowly snowballed into the other regions of Nigeria (Usman & Arjiromanus, 2019). Regrettably, these attacks have left loss of lives, destruction of properties and sorrow to families. For example, in 2014, 1,200 people's lives were cut short by herdsmen according to the global terrorism index report as reported in Usman & Arjiromanus (2019). The mere sight of the herdsmen brings fear to the minds of community members because of the forceful ways thru which they use to harness farmlands and cause destruction of crops. They also kill farm owners who attempt to challenge or drive them out of their vicinities, they go as far as raping women irrespective of their marital status and farmers now desert their farms for Fulani herdsmen. Ethno religious conflict is another major source of worry as far as security conditions in Nigeria is concern. Ethno religious conflict is the argument, challenge, fight, competition or disputes among different ethnic and religious bodies in Nigeria today. Because of the symbolic values entrenched in different ethnic groups and religions, it has become difficult to reconcile these differences due to the posture of the ethnic groups and religions (Egwu, 2019). According to Egwu Nigeria's Muslims, Christian and the different ethnic group don't trust themselves in the sharing of

resources and everyday issues, be it religious, political, social or economic. How can national security be possible in the mist of distrust, rancor and gross hostilities among the different religious and ethnic groups? Ethnic and religious politics as well as lack of trust among Nigerians have resulted to insecurities and clashes everywhere in the country. Egwu, (2019) reported that:

“Nigeria is one of the nations in the world whose political landscape has been inundated suffused with and deeply enmeshed in spectrum of recurring complex conflicts ranging from resources, communal to political and ethno religious conflicts” (Egwu, 2019: 239).

Conceptual clarification on Security

“Security” as a term or concept has been made use of recently by researchers, journalists, scholars and politicians but much cognisance have not been given to explaining the meaning (Oyibe, Nwafor & Chukwu, 2019). Oyibe et al while explaining the concept of security further stated that the matter of security can be dated back to the origin of man, when man was feeling insecure in his surroundings, he started building shelter and living in groups to secure himself. Countries formed armies to secure their people and territory and to secure the future, man started investing for the rainy days by building barns and also in search of a supernatural being (God) who is the controller of the universe to get spiritual security (Oyibe et al, 2019). No wonder Ogoh, (2008) opined that all types of security whether human security, national security, political security, economic security and environmental security have always been and will not stop to be a major issue to man. But the issue of national security globally today has assumed a new shape that may prompt the question: which way security, national or personal? This question will make one to reflect on the real meaning and imperativeness of security to a nation and her citizens. Personal security can only be achievable when there is national security. national security objectively can be said to mean the protection of people, organizations, institutions and infrastructures of a nation, it is the protection of these entities from internal and external threats, aggressions and preventing unauthorised people from entering and causing harm and destruction to the lives of citizens and their properties. In Nigeria evidence on the ground shows that the government of the day have not achieved national security? Dasuki (2013) claimed that security is the lack of insecurity because of the action or inaction of the security apparatus provided by

the government of a nation. Security of a nation is so important that without it the citizenry and countries cannot make meaningful growth and development.

Concept of Social Studies

Social Studies is an obligatory subject in the primary and secondary school systems in Nigeria. It is a study and a way of life that teaches about man and his immediate vicinity be it physical or human. Idu (2011), while making reference to Social Studies defined it as an integrated study that centre's on the study of environmental, economic, political and cultural facet of society which relates to the historical, contemporary and future events. In the same vein, Oyibe et al (2019:113) saw Social Studies as that subject that focuses on

“Learning about people, how and where they live, how they form and structure societies, how they govern themselves and provide for their material and psychological needs, how and why they love and hate each other, how they use and misuse the resources of the planet that is their home”.

Dania (2013) has also submitted that the subject is about moulding character and values. Dania stresses the role of Social Studies in the inculcation of good character and morals for the upbringing and building of positive behaviour that will endear peace and prevent violence and insecurity. In addition, Atubi,(2019) made it clear that Social Studies major objective is to direct young Nigerians towards possessing the right behaviour, knowledge, values and skills to fight ethnicity, crime and insecurity. It influences them against discrimination, tribalism and injustice, most of which are the underlying causes of insecurities in Nigeria. Osakwe (2009) also opined that citizens should be taught to be committed to the dignifying values,behaviours and rules that are enshrined in the Nigerian constitution, which are taught in Social Studies. Social Studies education thus seeks to imbibe in learners the knowledge of how to become useful to themselves, their societies and the country at large, this will make the entire nation to be devoid of insecurities. Atubi and Dania (2020) opined that Social Studies is exceedingly good in helping children with diverse learning abilities in becoming efficient learners and can do more than that for value education.

Combating Security Challenges through Quality Social Studies

Ikwu melu, Oyibe & Eluu (2019) substantiated that sustaining national security, depict the ability of the country to contend with changeable scenario or insecurities. Thus Social Studies can help to build a nation's security through concrete foundation of a learning culture, inundated with uncertainties which boost transformative and preventive commitment rather than lost of ability to combat insecurity. The use of the army and the police force that has been a strategy of fighting insecurity in

Nigeria, has huge financial and human resource implications for the country and this does not portray Nigeria as a giant that she is supposed to be in Africa. The root of the problem is value orientation that can only be gotten through the quality teaching of Social Studies, to build a strong foundation that is preventive and precautionary in nature rather than application of treatment (i.e. use of military). Oyibe & Nnamani (2016) are in congruence with the above when they stated that Social Studies contributes to the formation and building of human resources, the culture of constructing beliefs, attitudes, values and the ability for individuals and groups to collectively free themselves from ignorance to social control.

Edinyan g, Anyie & Gamba (2015) advocated for the use of Social Studies education to achieve inter-ethnic cooperation between Nigerians. Edinyang et al investigated the importance of Social Studies education in line with the philosophical goals and objectives of Social Studies in the Nigerian educational system through the promotion of value orientation, good citizenship education, peaceful cohabitation and tolerance for suitable inter-ethnic comprehension and promoting security. Similarly,

Odia (2014) maintained that Social Studies learning are important for the promotion of peace, national development and growth. Atubi (2019) pointed out that schools in Nigeria should be refocused to promote peaceful coexistence among learners; hence as learners practice peaceful living by discarding violent and bullying behaviours in school, security and safety will be promoted in the society. Since Social Studies centres on man and society, its major objective is to give people the cognition and realisation for peaceful connection and living. Through the learning of Social Studies, people are expected to acquire the right skills, behaviours and values needed to overcome the challenges of living in a chaotic and unsecured society like ours.

There is no curiosity therefore that developed countries like America, Britain, Canada, Australia and others places high premium on Social Studies education, these countries uses the subject as a preventive and corrective measure for the reconstruction and restoration of their citizens and societies. Thus, they put a very high value on the implementation of their Social Studies with regards to formulation of curriculum and policies. They use the subject to expose their young citizens to values and attitudes needed for sustainability and the promotion of a peaceful and secured nation. This is the reason Nigeria needs to borrow a leaf from them by taking their Social Studies school program seriously as a basis for preventing and curbing insecurity problems.

Social Studies inculcate in learners sense of collective responsibility that includes good governance and the need to learn knowledge, ability, good behaviour and values in school at the same time applying them to real life situations through the value of cooperation, thereby making our societies free of insecurities (Oyibe et al 2019). According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) (2013) as contained in the national policy on educational aims in Nigeria includes.

1. The inculcation of national cognizance and the need to live in unity.
2. The ingraining of the right kind of beliefs and behaviours that can make the individual to survive in the Nigerian society.
3. The training of the mind to know and appreciate the world around the individual
4. The acquisition of skills, abilities and competences that will equip the mental and physical performance of the individual to live and bring his best to the development of his/her society.

These objectives has now been embedded in the Nigerian Social Studies curriculum at all tiers of education, therefore Social Studies has the capacity to train the mind, character and value system in building a strong foundation for all Nigerians to live in peace and security.

Development, Security and National Integration in Nigeria

Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) assert that development could be seen as the process of empowering people to maximize their potentials and the ability to exploit nature to meet daily human needs. It can also be seen as a process by which quality of human lives and capacity to surmount daily needs are considerably improved.

The number of violent crimes such as kidnappings, ritual killings, carjackings, suicide bombings, religious killings, politically-motivated killing and violence, ethnic clashes, armed banditry and others has increasingly become the regular signature that characterizes life in Nigeria since 2009 (Imhonopi & Urim, 2012).

Not only has the continued state of insecurity threatened the very fabric of national integration in the country and created the ecology of fear, disquiet and anxiety, it has also meted a deadly blow or what Imhonopi & Urim (2012) call “spectral bite” to industrial development. The destruction of the badly needed infrastructure has taken the country many years backwards. The government has continued to trudge on in the face of this daring challenge and has continued to evolve strategies to contain or douse this conflagration. Meanwhile, academic writers, social researchers, scholars, security experts and consultants have also not rested in making diverse recommendations and probable solutions to address this national blight.

As Omede (2012) pontificates further, the nation’s security should include the preservation of the safety of Nigerians at home and abroad and the protection of the country’s sovereignty. Conversely, insecurity is the antithesis of security and has attracted such common descriptors as want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and others (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Achumba et al argue further that these common descriptors point to a condition where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property or livelihood. Therefore, they consider insecurity to be a state of not knowing, a lack of control, and the inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm or danger to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable. Omede (2012) sees security as a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests. Nwagboso (2012) argues that in the long sweep of history, security has been about people and without reference to the security of the individual, security makes no sense at all.

Dike (2010) and Omede (2012) have taken this argument a step further by emphasising that Nigeria’s security should be based on a holistic view which sees the citizens as the primary beneficiaries of every security and developmental deliverable that the state can offer. Thus, Nigeria’s security will involve efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria so it can advance its interests and objectives to contain internal and external aggression, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance

genuine development, progress and growth and improve the welfare and quality of life of every citizen.

The failure of security agencies such as the police, the military, state security services and paramilitary units to share intelligence information has been identified as one of the factors negating the quick apprehension of culprits (Omede, 2011). Also, the failure of intelligence gathering by the security agencies as well as the near passivity of security operatives in proactively policing the country, coupled with the non-apprehension of culprits, is also a contributory factor to the rising tide of insecurity in Nigeria. Of course, when the armed forces and paramilitary agencies are not well-tooled with modern fighting and security gadgets and their welfare is not given priority attention, they may not want to make any sacrifices for the nation. All of these factors point to a passive national security team that is not really committed to fighting crime or stopping the merchants of violence or terror envoys from having the field day in the country.

(Imhonopi& Urim, 2012) has continued to plague the moral sanity and integrity of the polity. The state of insecurity in the country has been sustained by a regressing economy, unviable hospital facilities and health services, lack of good pipe borne water, transportation and fuel problems, unemployment and a growing sense of disenchantment that government and its representatives have not been fair to the people, thus pushing some citizens into criminal activities including violent crimes to make a living and to take out their anger on a passive society. Consequently, the state of increased lawlessness, violence and criminality, that has become characteristic of life in Nigeria, has further increased the dismalness of insecurity challenges facing the country.

Conclusion

Until Nigeria government sees the need for Social Studies as a proficient avenue to avert the challenge of insecurity by making it a mandatory subject for all schools so as to keep ringing as morning assembly bell in the minds of citizens of Nigerians starting from primary, secondary tertiary institutions and even extend it to our immediate community and also by enlightening the teachers and community leaders on how to help in the creation of awareness and the need for a safe and secured Nation. The social media also should come in and the government should try all possible best to

see that facilities necessary to achieve this national goal are put in place to enable smooth running of education and economic development.

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