

EDUCATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

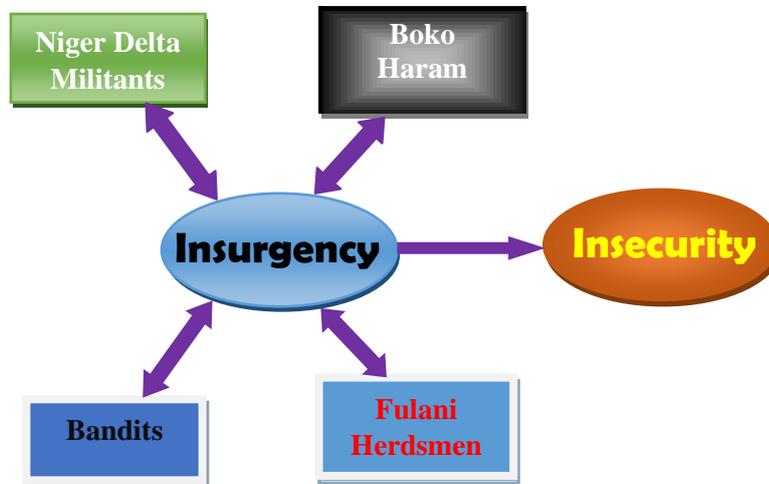
Prof. Ekaette I. Ekpo

Nigeria is a West African country with an estimated 250 ethnic groups and with an estimated population of about 170,123,740 people as at 2006 census report. In recent time, Nigeria as a nation has experienced a myriad of insecurity challenges without exemption to schools and government institutions. These challenges pose significant level of threats to the safety of life, property and corporate existence of the nation. The security of a nation entails the safety of all components of the nation including all the institutions that constitute it such as worship centres, police, embassies, governmental agencies and educational institution. The Nigeria constitution of 1999 section 14(2) (b) saddles the government with the primary responsibility of the welfare and security of the citizens, hence the President is the Chief Security Officer of the nation. Today however, the populace is oftenly advised by media house in their advert and news previews to be security conscious even though the government is vested with the primary function of security of lives and properties. What this informs the people is the insecurity challenges. The big question, is how conscious are the people? Does the school curriculum include subject that trains the citizens on security consciousness from childhood to adult education? Have they been trained on what to do should they face insecurity challenges? This is a subject of discourse in conferences. Where there is good governance attention will be paid to the education sector due to it important role of preparing individual as actors in the society.

Insecurity

Insecurity is the absence of protection or safety Achumba et al (2013). It is a state of fear, vulnerability to attacks, dangers, emotional and psychological trauma, as well as dead. Insecurity is a product of insurgency. Insurgency is explained as a political movement aimed at realizing a specific political goal which is generally to overthrow a government through subversive means and armed conflict for the control of power, sharing of power and resources of a nation.

Agents of Insurgency



Causes of Insecurity

- Staggering poverty in the nation
- Youth unemployment
- Poor government policies
- Poor leadership
- Weak judiciary system
- Political structural arrangement
- Diversity of culture, tradition and religion
- Lack of trust
- Control and intolerance
- Fear of domination/marginalization
- Political ambition by politicians
- Illiteracy

Examples of Insecurity

- Human and drug trafficking
- Porous borders
- Infiltration of arms and ammunitions
- Ethic-religious conflict
- Political based violence
- Periodic outbreak of deadly diseases

Challenges of Insecurity

The challenges of insecurity in Nigeria is at an alarming stage. Some of the challenges include:

- Bombing
- Suicide bomb attacks

- Sporadic shootings of unarmed and innocent citizens
- Burning of police stations
- Churches
- Kidnapping
- Rape
- Armed robbery
- Political crisis
- Murder / unwarranted killings
- Destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta youth alongside the Fulani Herdsmen.

Nigeria has been included among the terrorist countries of the world. Infact, it ranks the third position as reported by 2020 global terrorism index.

Governance

The action or manner of governing or leading a nation or state or organization. The system by which an organization is controlled and operated, and the mechanism by which it, and its people are held to account for actions, non-actions, incident and events that goes on in a place or organization.

Components of Governance



What is Good Governance?

The meaning of good is relative and its meaning depends on the criteria for judgment, therefore, it is explained here in terms of its elements.

Element of Good Governance



Source: Shamel et al (2013)

These elements have not been adequately given its right place in the country by the successive government inspite of its relative importance. The political leaders from first Republic till today have exhibited insincerity, greed, egocentricism and chauvinistic and aristocratic tendencies. They have use state power to enrich themselves hence they clench to power. Bad governance is the opposite of good governance and does not permit development of the society in terms of infrastructure and human resource.

Indicators of Bad Governance

Religious intolerance, superstition, separatist agitators, riot, secret cult related crimes, terrorism, drug trafficking, ethnic strife, kidnapping, excessive borrowing by the government etc.

Good governance. Here, however depends to a large extent on how individuals are prepared for leadership roles in the society, one of the institutions that prepares the individual is the education institution.

Education

This is the process of receiving and giving systematic instruction, especially at school or university. It is an enlightening experience. It is the process of teaching, someone especially in school, college or university. Acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits and personal development through teaching, training, storytelling, discussion, tutoring, coaching and directed research. It brings positive changes in life and behavior in terms of reasoning and ability. Process of empowering one for functionality in the society.

Types of Education

- Formal Education
- Informal Education
- Non-formal Education (apprenticeship)

Education and Good Governance

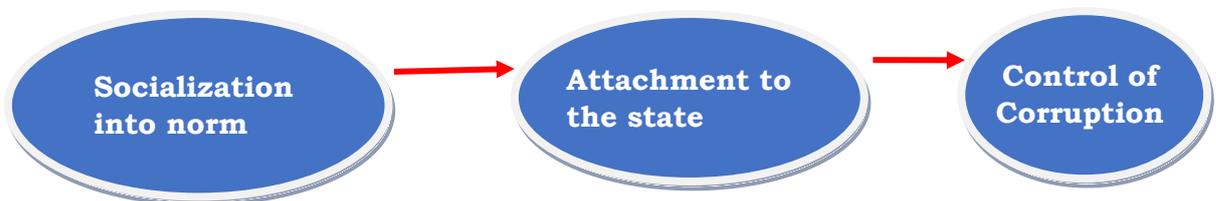
The role of education in good governance cannot be overemphasized. Plato, Aristotle, Khorlbeq, John Locke and others knew this when they emphasized morality education as part of the school curriculum from Kindergarten to Adult Education. Plato, Aristotle, John Locke, Jean Roussar and others realized the role of education in governance when they emphasized the training of the mind and the head. They did what was called classification or grouping to separate children according to their ability and potentials. The relationship between education and good governance is explained below.

Relationship between Education and Good Governance

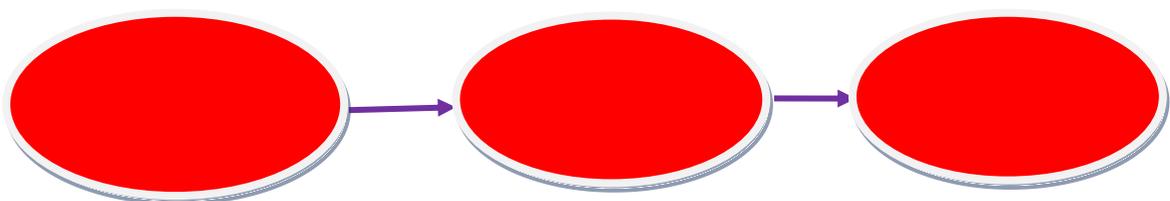
- The development of educated citizens promotes voice transparency and accountability in governance.



- Socialization into norms including attachment to the state helps control corruption. People should be nationally minded, love their country and value it. The country first.
-



- Increases in economic equality can reduce political instability and violence. The need for development of skills and knowledge for productive engagement is absolutely important.



Conclusion

The challenges of insecurity in Nigeria can only be averted by good governance which foundation is laid on a sound education that trains the head, the mind and prepares the beneficiaries based on the core values of the society. Government, rich individuals and organizations should provide quality education by funding the education sector of the economy. This will help to take care of shortage of qualified human resource with experiences in the system, since good governance is a function of quality education. Entrepreneurial education where people will become self-reliant and contribute to the development of the society should be emphasized.

Recommendations

1. Education should reflect the dynamism of the society and should be relevant to the changing global needs
2. There is the need to review school curriculum to become broad based and necessary for the development of well-informed citizens for governance and other sectors of the economy. Good knowledge of liberal, vocational and entrepreneurship subjects will equip the youth with skills that will help in the development of more social youths who will place their country first before themselves.
3. Morals, values, ethics and virtues should be emphasized in the school during teaching and learning so that it becomes part of the individual as a member of the society.
4. There should be school - industry linkage to allow opportunity for the development of leadership skills and other relevant skills needed to function effectively in the society.
5. Government should ensure that every Nigerian child is in school by enforcing the Universal Basic Education policy so as to achieve high literacy level rate in the country.
6. Government should develop the will power to curb activities that constitute threats to lives and properties.