
Imperatives of Education and Security Challenges in Nigeria: Implication for Education for All

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Abstract

Education is widely accepted as a leading instrument for promoting economic growth. It has been defined as the acquisition of knowledge of faculty and the training of skills towards making the individuals become relevant to himself and to the society to which he belongs. This paper is focused on the impact of education and literacy on economic growth to pave way for opportunities for all, so that crime, poverty, insecurity in the life of the individual and that of the society at large will be reduced or completely eliminated. It is the position of this also, that, no matter the budgetary allocation by the government for the procurement of ammunition and weapons for the police and other security agencies, comes such as armed robbery, prostitution and human trafficking, terrorism, political thuggery will continue to plague our society unless the citizens are educated. Education is the only key that can unlock every door of crime. It solves social, political thuggery, career problems etc. it addresses conflicts, empower the individual with knowledge, skills to read and write, what the individual can do to learn, earn and eat. Equally, solutions are proffered to sect as a threat to education for all and recommendations are made on the imperative of education for all irrespective of gender in Nigeria.

Education has been defined as the acquisition of knowledge, development of faculty and the training of skills towards making the individual become relevant to himself and the society to which he belongs. Education goes beyond schooling.

Education is no longer a preparation for development itself. It sensitizes people towards participation in the social economic, political and cultural development

in their areas. It is a critical pillar of human development. It is the trained individual who develops the capacity and analytical skills that drives local economics, support civil society, teach children, lead effective government and make important decision which affect the entire societies.

The private benefits education provides for individual are well established and these include better employment prospects, high salaries and greater ability to save and invest. It has been that the absence of literacy in the life of the individual and society can lead to problems of conflict and insecurity. The achievement of national goals is dependent on her education, so that people can manage every change effectively. The Nigeria educational systems, needs peace and tranquility as the only ingredient for growth and development. Education as either a system process or goal does not exist in a vacuum. It's meaning is derived from the social context and the predominant world view and ethics. Education must be able to produce the kind of citizens with appropriate skills, relevant knowledge and positive values that will increasingly make life meaningful to the individual and society in general. This researcher is not so much concerned about defining education as a concept rather to concern himself with the three dimensions that education serves.

1. Education as a means
2. Education as an end
3. Education as a system

Some Basic Threats to Education for All

Several impediments to achieving education for all have been theorized from time to time. For this paper, attempt is made to look at only two of such impediment that possess overriding elements. These are:

1. Corruption
2. Insecurity

Corruption

Corruption is an abstract term but finds open and palpable expression in purchasing of votes, inflation of contracts placement of names of ghost workers on pay rolls, bribery, all forms of financial crimes etc.

A number of theoretical postulations have been made on the concept of corruption. Among such postulations are, modernization, traditional and colonial theories. They anchored their argument on the fact that corruption is based on personal greed.

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Osakwe (2009), sees corruption as a state of falsehood, impropriety, illegitimacy, illegality or injustice, greed towards acquisition of power or position for private and sectional profit. Corruption can always be seen as a perversion or a change from good to bad. Specifically, corruption or corrupt behavior involves the violation of established rules for personal gain. Other causes of corruption include misplaced sense of values, erosion of ethics and accountability in governance and poor remuneration of workers to adequately face high cost of living. According to Adebayo (1980), Nigerians are currently worshipping material success no matter by what means the success is achieved. Some effects of this monster are divided loyalty leading to the evasion and examination leakages, distortion of the economy, unattained goals, increase in cost of administration, raised transactions, cost and uncertainty in our economy. It leads to inefficient economic outcomes and impedes long term foreign and domestic investments. Corruption has eaten deep into the ethical value of Nigerians such that hard work, integrity, dedication and commitment to work, faithfulness and honesty have been replaced by greed, indolence, dishonesty and faithfulness as well as lack of trust in the leaders and the led.

Corruption leads to a decline in real per capita income, heightens inflation widens budget and balance of payment deficits. It promotes inequality, reduction in the quality of products, diversion of funds, political inequality, loss of democratic values. It strengthens bad governance through the absence of the rule of law, respect for humanity, transparency.

Above all, corruption leads to massive neglect to the social sector which has substantially decreased in the quality of human resources in Nigeria over the years. Corruption has undermined the economic growth and development of the nation in several ways such as:

1. It has become a major challenge militating against Nigeria's democratization
2. It has widened the poverty level of Nigerians and equally widen the gap between the rich and the poor.
3. The cost of transportation is daily on the increase because, policemen collect bribes from drivers on the highways.
4. It has much on the falling standard of education in Nigeria e.g. the irregular payment of teachers' salaries and allowance, allocation of human development for teachers to update their knowledge.

The Term Security/Insecurity

The term security can be used in many ways to mean human security that deals with the protection of an individual's personal safety and freedom from direct and indirect threats of violence such as environmental destruction, over population and

spread of infectious diseases, food supply, energy crises, physical, mental harassment, racism and others that endanger the wellbeing of any daily lives.

Fayeye (2010) defined security as the composition, structure and responsibilities of the security sector and comprises of the personal and communal state of being secured from a wide range of critical and pervasive threats including but not limited to all forms of violence, injustice and violation of human rights.

What is Insecurity?

There are several schools of thought on the meaning of security to some security supply implies the building of strong military to protect the territorial or national integrity of the state from both internal and external violations. However, Talukder (1982) opined that security, means protection and preservation of minimum core values of any nation political independence and territorial integrity.”

Insecurity can emanate from a situation where men suffer deprivation, poverty, lack of access to essential necessities of life. The original state of man as posited by Jean Jacques Rousseau an 18th century European philosopher is that man existed as a free gentle savage. In this state of nature, man was naturally good. However, this tranquil state subsequently became corrupted by human desire and greed this undermining the peaceful, pristine state of nature. Rousseau also make a scathing attack on private prosperity which he saw a major reason for the depravity of man. Peace is a process involving activities that directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict in society.

At the National Security Summit held at African Hall, International conference centre, Abuja on the January, 2013 and reported in the Vanguard Newspaper of 9th January, 2013, the Inspector General Police in his address on security challenges in Nigeria agreed that things are going wrong, he said “A situation when you travel from Lagos to Maiduguri or other parts of the country by road and all you see is a populace encapsulated in poverty, deprivation, hunger written on their faces is trouble waiting to happen.

Insecurity simply means the absence of safety and peace, a problematic condition while security is undoubtedly the foundation needed for the socio-economic cum political and educational development. Insecurity is a venomous threat to the well being of the citizens of any nation and a cankerworm that destroys the root that holds the existence of any nation.

Nigeria’s security challenges is an offshoot of several imbalances in the society. The recklessness displayed by those who piloted the affairs of this country, the involvement of a good number of affluent people in organized crimes such as armed

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robbery, human trafficking, inflated/overprices contract, smuggling, political thuggery, terrorism, money laundry, pipeline, vanderlisation, embezzlement, official corruption, Boko-haram etc. it is even disturbing and demoralizing to note that some of these culprits successfully wriggle their way into position of power and subsequently determine the fortune of this great republic. Imobighe (1998) posited that, because the country refused to use the good opportunities that came her way positively, we are today plagued with both internal and external security challenges. He classified the reasons to include:

1. Lack of broad public participation in the affairs of the state
2. The politics of resources allocation
3. Resource management/control
4. Annulment of June 12, 1992
5. Arbitrary use of power

Unemployment is another serious factors in the securing challenges facing Nigerians graduate from tertiary institutions across the country without unemployment benefit given to them as practiced in some countries as a form of social security. Corruption and Poverty also constitute serious challenges. So many Nigerians face economic depression, lack of freedom, inability to provide the basic needs of life for self and family, lack of access to loans and credit, inability to save or own assets. According to Jega (1995), our federalism has become structural context for class struggles and completion between factions of the ruling classes of diverse nationalities that comprises the Nigerian socio-economic formation. What the elites do to gain or retain power is to whip up reactionary to gain followers from the poor masses, for political support purporting that their course of action is in the overall interest of the entire primordial society not even to talk of the entire civil society.

We are where we are today because the Northern masses are made to believe that the south through colonialism has marginalized the North through colonial educational policies. The Southern masses are made to believe that the Northerners have marginalized the south through their continued stay in power since 1960 thereby establishing Northern hegemony over the south. The security challenges faced by Nigeria from her neighbours externally are not so pronounced because they are economically and politically weak. The weak neighbours cannot on their won dream of invading Nigeria unless they want to commit suicide.

The present state of insecurity is aggravated by the emergence of the Boko-Haram fundamentalist sect which is believed to have been formed by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 in Maiduguri. This Boko-Haram sect has set several schools and churches on fire thereby killing several innocent citizens. Between February 26-29 in

2012, Boko-haram attacked and burnt down Kutagummu, Abbagenaran and Burdun Primary Schools, thereby leaving several school children and teachers impotent in terms of access to education. The suspected ties of Boko-Haram with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb have become another source of worry to Nigerians as far as security is concerned. These attacks on schools, churches poses danger to education and the development of the country and wealthy parents in the North may be forced to send their children abroad for studies and safety.

Peace, Security and National Development as a Panacea to Education for All

No matter the huge amount invested in police, military weapon in the face of unemployment, poverty, the society will still be prone to crimes and insecurity. Education and literacy is the only key that can unlock every door of crime in the society, it is the cornerstone of any development. It solves social, political, career problems. It addresses conflict, empower the individual with knowledge, skills to read and write, what the individual can do to learn, earn and eat. Illiteracy leads to insecurity and conflicts. The literate person can easily participate in all the spheres of life and become conversant of happenings around. Just as education refines the individual, sustainable development is a process that progressively ameliorates social, political and economic change that transforms and sustains the general well being of the citizenry. Todaro (1989) on his own part defined developed as a multi-dimensional process involving major changes in social structure, popular attitude and national institution as well as acceleration of economic growth, reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty. Generally, speaking development simply means improvement for the better in the quality of anything.

The concept of sustainable development is all embracing because Onyemelukwe (1997), noted that development involve society' transformation through its institutions organizations, social rules, customary usages and attitudes to an extent that makes desired modern change. Sustainable development therefore is the exploitation of natural resources and the provision of social amenities without jeopardizing the ability of succeeding generation to satisfy their needs. It has to do with showing a greater consideration for the future generations' means of livelihood even while trying to improve on the present generation standard of living.

Security and peace can become a recipe for education for all that will lead to development especially a development that will have national outlook as posited by Todaro in (1989) Onyson (2005), when he opined that development implies the multi-dimensional process of involving change in structure and attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, no reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty. Accordingly Shut (2003) defined development as the

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transformation of the entire economic and social structure of the society be it regional national or international.

One of the policy thrust of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) is empowering people through education since this can provide in enabling environment and stimulate the active participation of the private sector, civil society organization, communities and development partners in educational development. If the citizens are given unhindered access to education, it will serve as a bridge to the future economic transformation of Nigerian society for sustainable peace and development. The vices that currently plague our school system such as cultism, examination malpractice, sexual harassment, falsification of results, lack of qualified teachers are manifestation of the rottenness that is prevalent in the society. To solve these myriad of problems and have peace, within the polity, education becomes the most potentially effective way of ensuring the right moral values in our people by education, I mean the formal process of imparting knowledge to students under the school system.

The Nigeria state needs a committal rejuvenation and moral re-orientation. According to Ugbeyarwighren (2008), Nigeria as a nation is suffering the problem of misplaced values. Those age-old virtue like honesty, hard work, truthfulness, modest I words and actions are no longer projected or acclaimed, rather what has become the vogue is indiscriminate pursuit of wealth and worship of materials success no matter the means through which this is achieved, to the neglect of making education accessible and affordable to Nigerian by those in power.

Conclusion

What Nigeria needs in order to have peace as a sine-qua-non for sustainable development of education is a well articulated national security apparatus and a network that does not coerce the citizenry at the expense of the pursuit of basic human needs. According to imobighe (1998), “the country needs a security perspective that upholds the tenets of social justice, fair-play and probity in public life”

There is a general discontent among Nigerians due to unemployment, poverty, lack of social amenities, high cost of education and low standard of living in the midst of plenty. It is worse to note that most government policies do not address these social malaise especially corruption and siphoning of public fund rather recent policies are in the direction of aggravating them.

Recommendation

1. Government should vigorously pursue policies that can promote free education at all levels in Nigeria.

2. Since education and literacy can promote faster technological catch-up and improve the country's ability to maximize its economic out-put, access to basic education and other levels of the school system should be made mandatory and compulsory to all Nigerians.
3. There is the need to entrench the concept of responsibility and responsiveness and even transparency in governance. Those at the helm of affairs should always see themselves accountable to the people over whom they are exercising authority.
4. Corruption and poverty also kill genuine initiatives and discourage hard work. Those who are found guilty in the areas of corruption and embezzlement should be sentenced to life imprisonment and their properties confiscated to serve as a deterrent to other.
5. Government should as a matter of urgent need put in place social security programs in the form of unemployment benefits as one method of extending a small part of the nation's resource to maintain those who have been temporarily removed from the productive streams of the nation's economy.
6. The Federal Government should establish co-ordinating offices for education for all in the states of the Federation.
7. All Public and Private Media institution should help in raising public awareness and support for education for All programme in the country.
8. The states should make greater efforts and sacrifices to raise the level of awareness on Education for ALL campaign and reach out to a greater segment of the illiterate population.
9. The Federal Government should ensure that all personnel involved in the execution of Education for ALL programme are adequately remunerated.
10. The Federal Government should provide incentive through awards, prizes etc to states for ourstanding performance in Education for ALL programmes.

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